This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

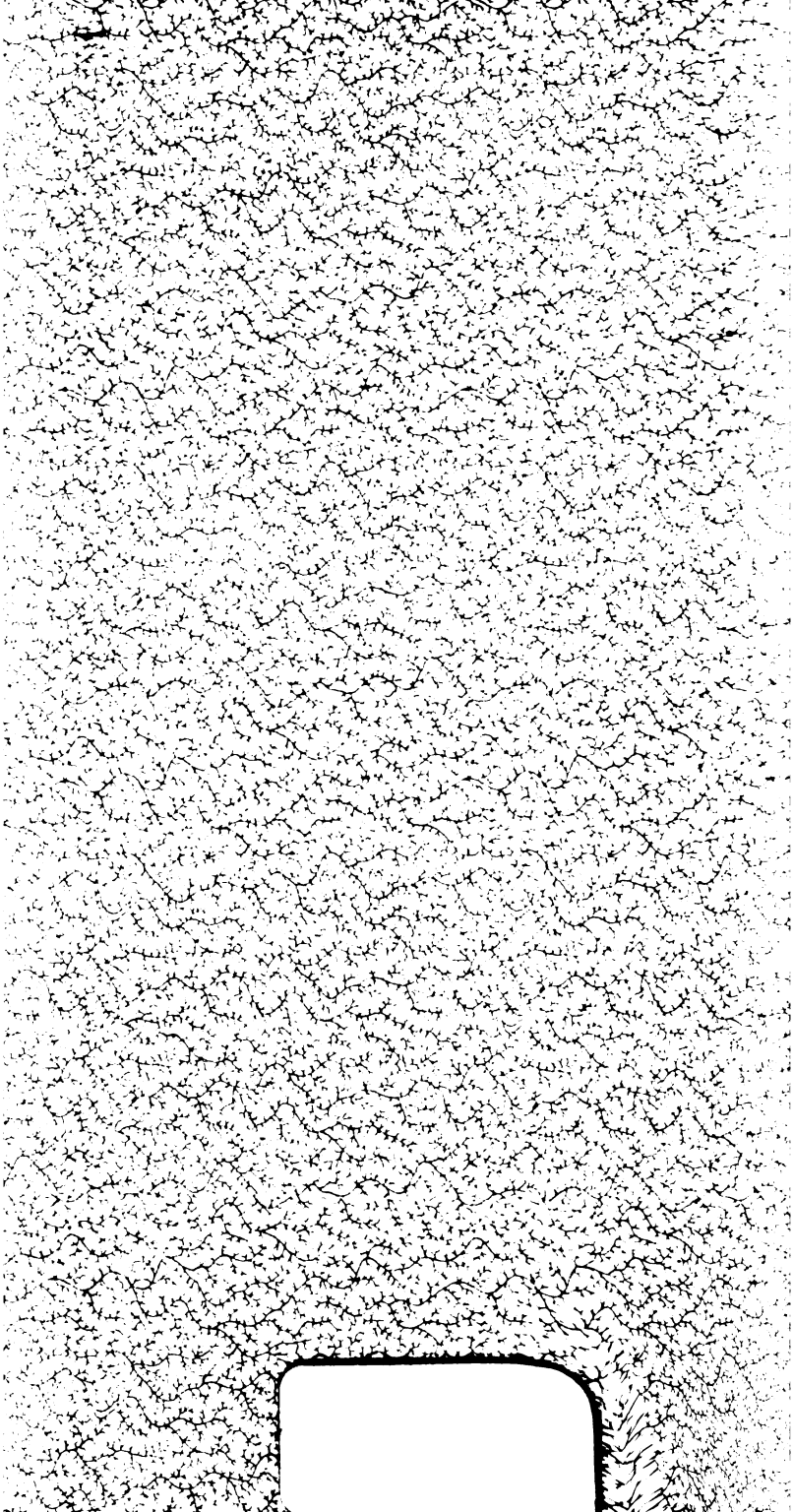
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

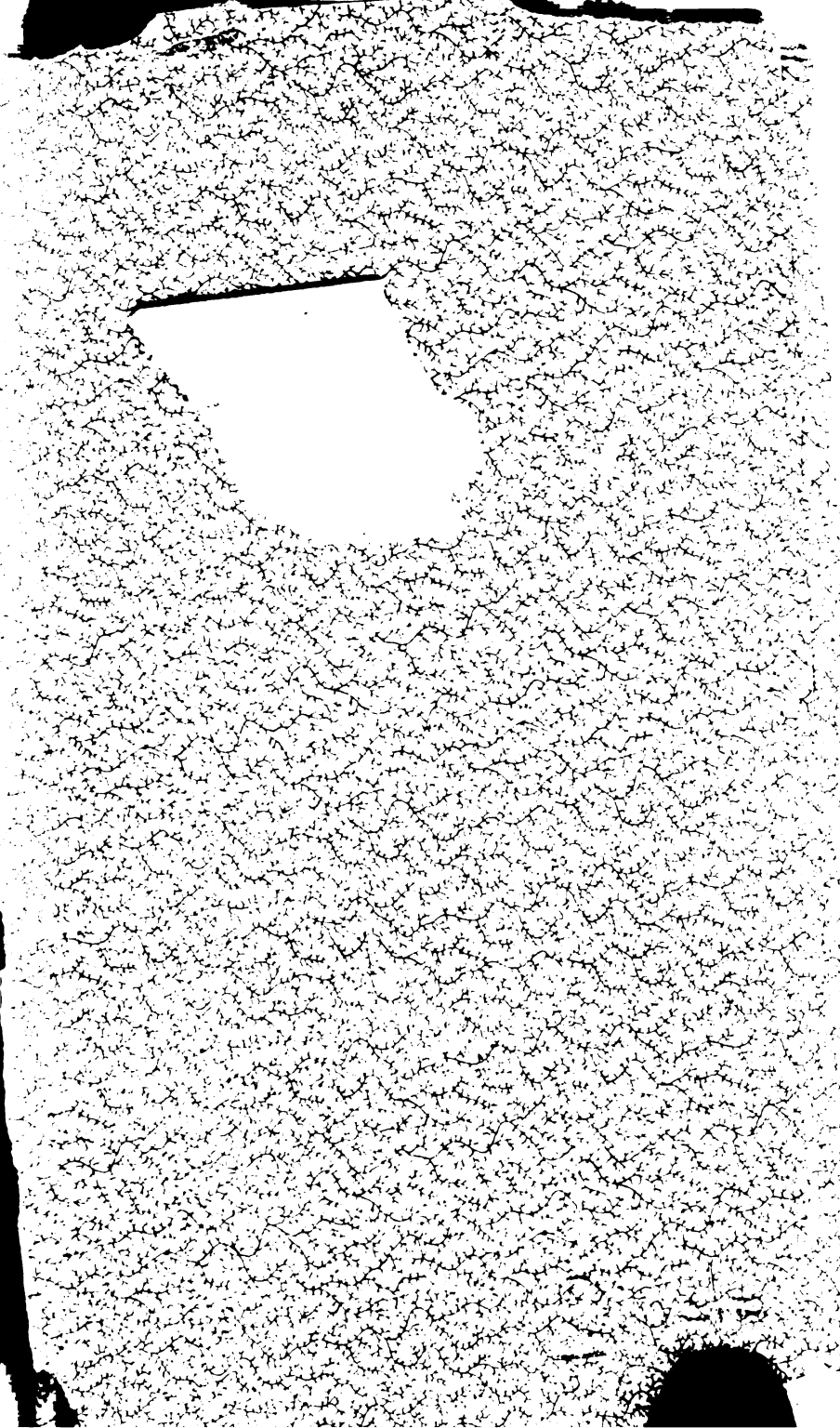
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

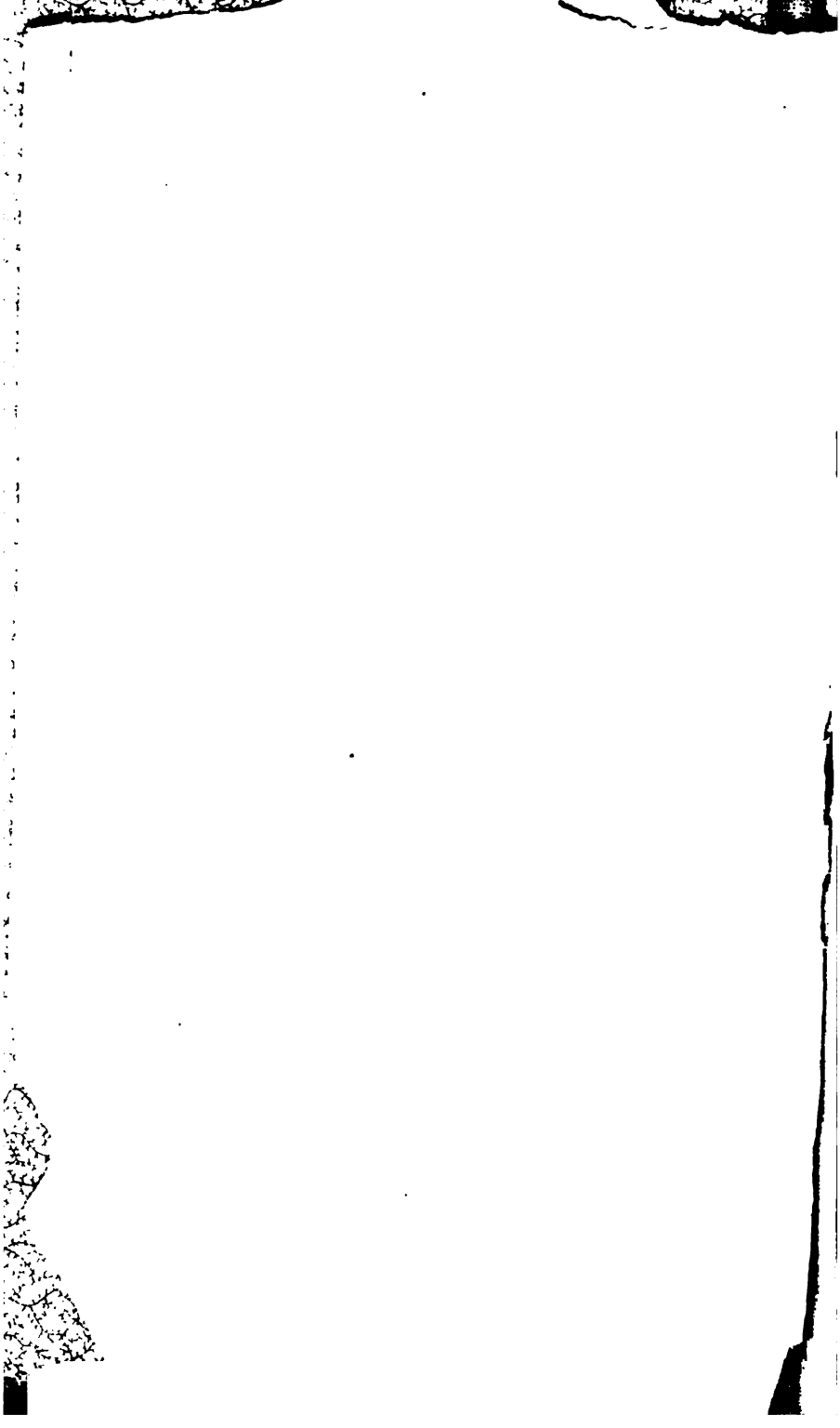
About Google Book Search

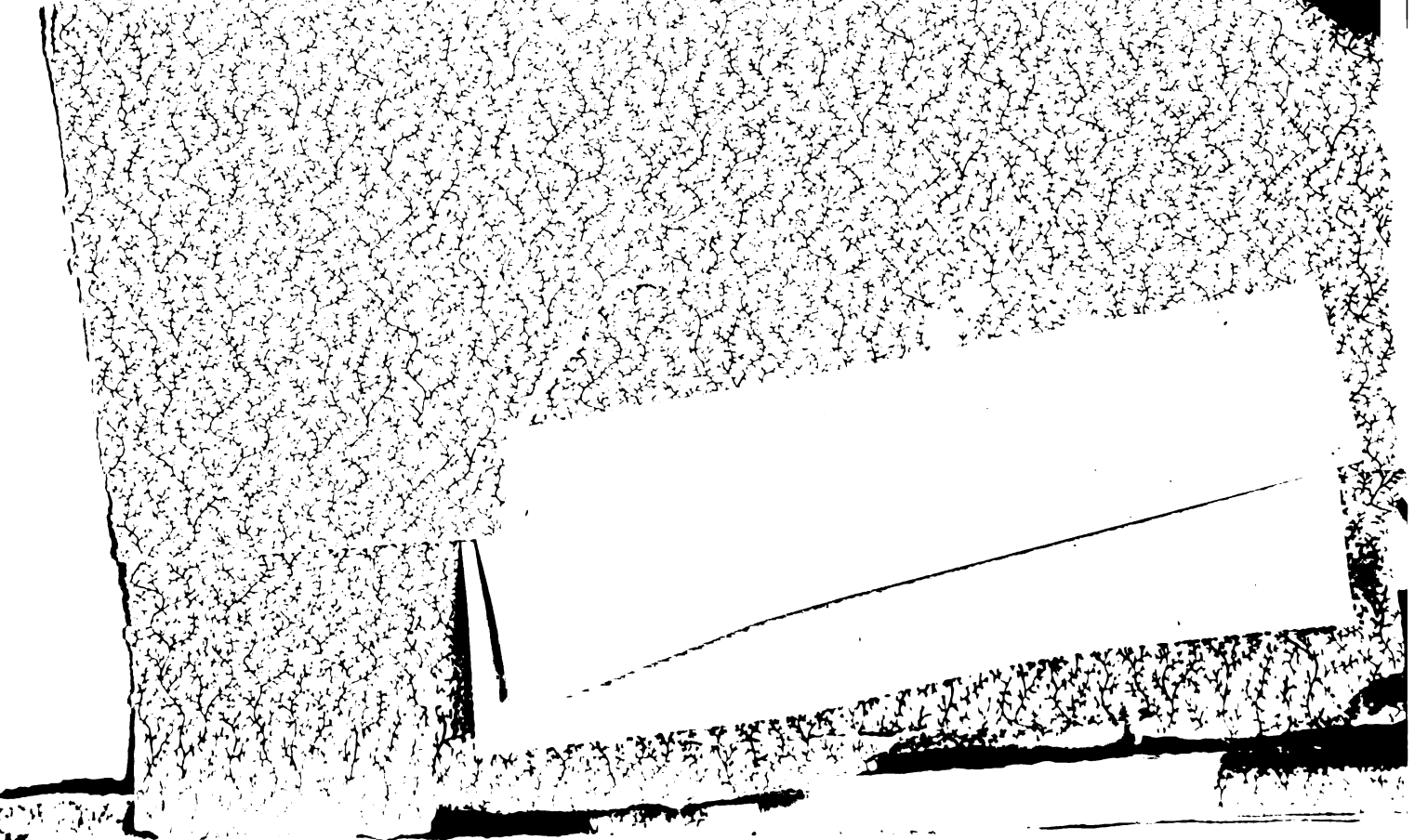
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

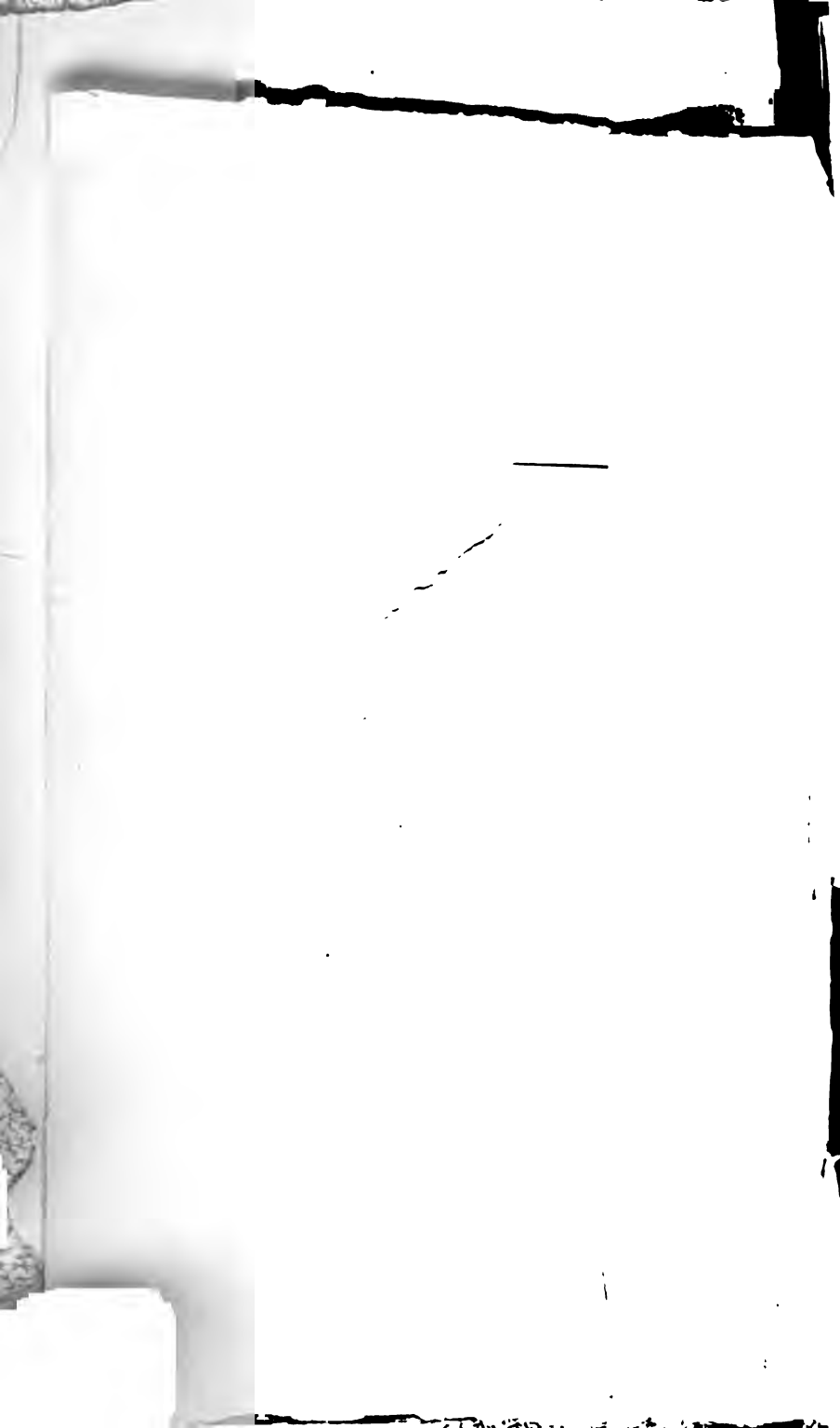
NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES
3 3433 06933169 6

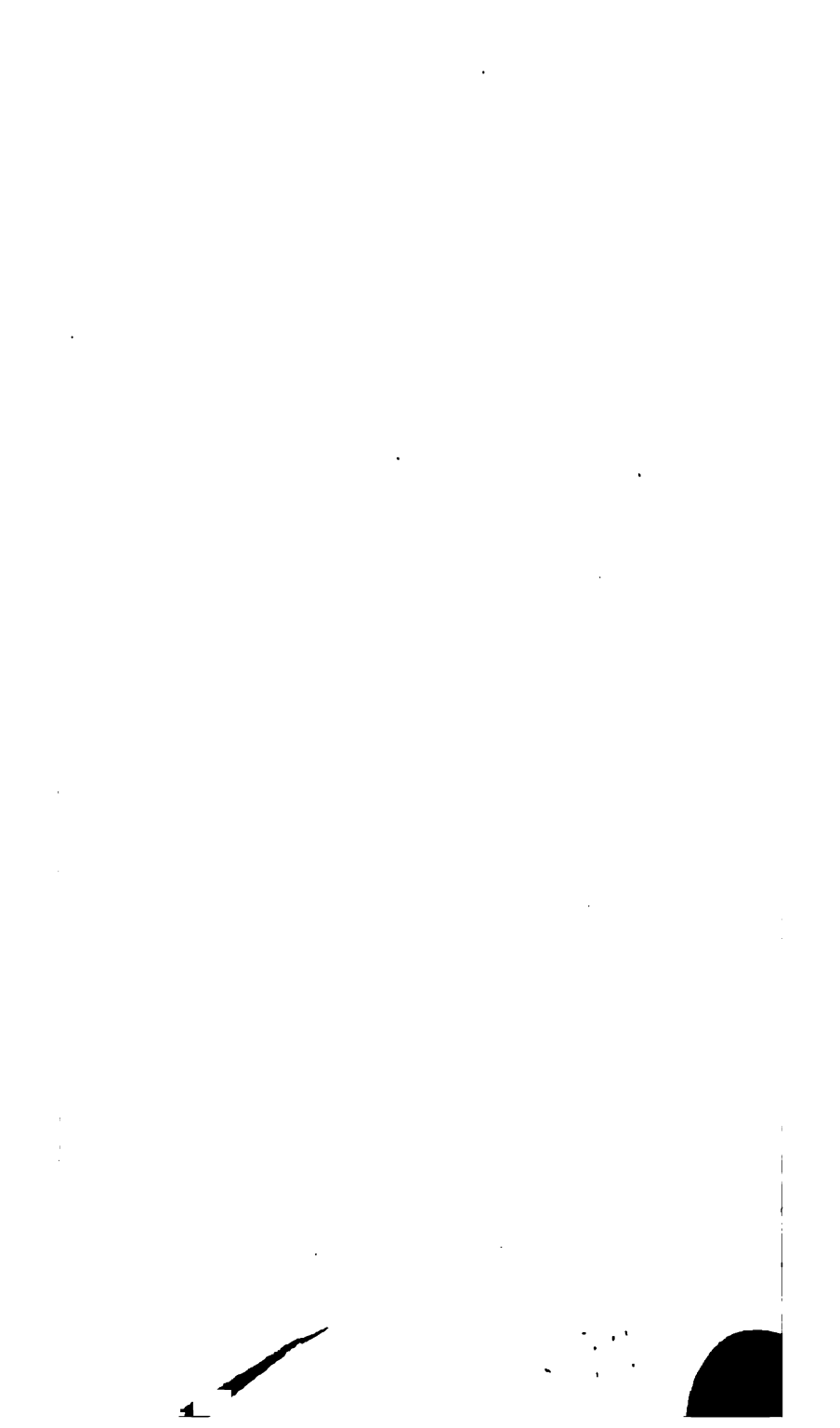












THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE

MINISTERS

OF THE

DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

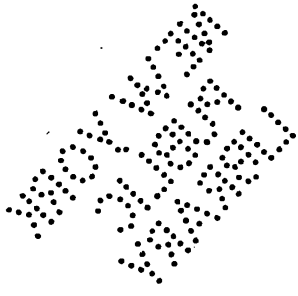
VOLUME FIRST.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero de Orat. lib. ii.

ASTOR LIBRARY
NEW-YORK.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, AND A. GUTHRIE, EDINBURGH;
T. CADELL, J. STOCKDALE, J. DEBRETT, AND J. SEWEL,
LONDON; DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW;
ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

M,DCC,XCI.



INTRODUCTION.

IT is now about twelve months ſince I firſt had the honour of circulating among the Clergy of the Church of Scotland a variety of Queries, for the purpoſe of elucidating the Natural Hiſtory and Political State of that Country. My original idea was, to have drawn up from their returns a general Statiſtical view of North Britain, without any particular reference to Parochial diſtricts. But I found ſuch merit and ability, and ſo many uſeful facts and important obſervations in the anſwers which were ſent me, that I could not think of depriving the Clergy of the credit they were entitled to derive from ſuch laborious exertions; and I was thence induced to give the Work to the Public in its preſent ſhape.

It would have been more deſirable to have had the accounts of the different Pariſhes arranged by Preſbyteries or Counties, for the purpoſe of connexion, and to prevent repetition, where the circumſtances of the different diſtricts were nearly ſimilar. But it was not to be expected that complete information reſpecting any one of the larger diviſions of the Kingdom, could be at once obtained. It was therefore

fore thought moſt adviſable to throw as much variety as poſſible into the Firſt Volume, that the Reader might be enabled to form ſome general idea of the State of the Kingdom even from this part of the Work. Whether the ſame plan is to be perſevered in, or whether more regularity and connexion are to be attended to in future, will depend on the unanimity and diſpatch with which the Clergy tranſmit the neceſſary information to the Author.

The variety of buſineſs, both of a public and of a private nature, in which I have of late been engaged, has prevented me from arranging or abridging, ſo completely as otherwiſe I ſhould have done, the anſwers included in this Volume; and, indeed, that part of the Work muſt be attended with conſiderable difficulty, unleſs the Clergy in general will do, what many of them have very ſucceſsfully executed, namely, tranſmit their accounts prepared for immediate publication. Anſwers to the Queries, however, which have been circulated, are ſtill requeſted; but, where it is equally convenient, it is certainly more deſirable that the Clergy ſhould conſider the Queries *merely as a key to inquiry*; and the models which are now ſet before them, together with the annexed Analyſis, will be of ſervice in pointing out the beſt mode of drawing up the Statiſtical Account of the different diſtricts.

It would be improper to conclude without returning my beſt acknowledgments to the Clergy in general, for the attention they have paid to the different requiſitions with which I have troubled them, and for the very polite and flattering manner with which they have perſonally addreſſed themſelves to me on the occaſion. The ſpirit and alacrity with which they have engaged in ſo laborious an undertaking muſt ever do them infinite credit; and they muſt feel the utmoſt ſatisfaction from the reflection, that they have contributed to the formation of a Work, of which it may be truly ſaid, in the words of a reſpectable citizen of this country *, "That no Publication of equal "information and curioſity has appeared in Great "Britain ſince Dooms-day Book; and that, from the "ample and authentic facts which it records, it muſt "be reſorted to by every future Stateſman, Philoſo-"pher, and Divine, as the beſt baſis that has ever "yet appeared for political ſpeculation."

* George Dempſter, Eſq;

ANALY-

EDIN. MAY 25. 1791.

ANALYSIS

OF

The Statiſtical Account of a Parochial Diſtrict.

As many of the Clergy may be deſirous of having a particular form laid down for drawing up the Statiſtical Account of their reſpective Pariſhes, the following plan for that purpoſe is ſubmitted to their conſideration.

The name, and its origin
Situation and extent of the pariſh
Number of acres
Deſcription of the ſoil and ſurface
Nature and extent of the ſea coaſt
Lakes, rivers, iſlands, hills, rocks, caves, woods, orchards, &c.
Climate and diſeaſes
Inſtances of longevity
State of property
Number of proprietors
Number of reſiding proprietors
Mode of cultivation
Implements of huſbandry
Manures
Seed-time and harveſt
Remarkable inſtances of good and bad ſeaſons
Quantity and value of each ſpecies of crop
Total value of the whole produce of the diſtrict
Total real and valued rent
Price of grain and proviſions

Total quantity of grain and other articles conſumed in the pariſh
Wages and price of labour
Services, whether exacted or aboliſhed
Commerce
Manufactures
Manufacture of kelp, its amount, and the number of people employed in it
Fiſheries
Towns and villages
Police
Inns and ale-houſes
Roads and bridges
Harbours
Ferries, and their ſtate
Number of ſhips and veſſels
Number of ſeamen
State of the church
Stipend, manſe, glebe, and patron
Number of poor
Parochial funds, and the management of them
State of the ſchools, and number of ſcholars
Antient ſtate of population
Cauſes of its increaſe or decreaſe
Number of families
Exact amount of the number of ſouls now living
Diviſion of the inhabitants
1. By the place of their birth
2. By their ages
3. By their religious perſuaſions
4. By their occupations and ſituation in life
5. By their reſidence, whether in town, village, or in the country

Number of houſes
——— uninhabited houſes
——— dove-cots, and to what extent they are deſtructive to the crops
——— horſes, their nature, and value
——— cattle and ditto
——— ſheep and ditto
——— ſwine and ditto
Minerals in general
Mineral ſprings
Coal and fuel
Eminent men
Antiquities
Parochial records
Miſcellaneous obſervations
Character of the people
Their manners, cuſtoms, ſtature, &c.
Advantages and diſadvantages
Means by which their ſituation could be meliorated

CONTENTS.

No.		Page
1.	Parish of Jedburgh	1
2.	—— Holywood	18
3.	—— Portpatrick	37
4.	—— Hounam	48
5.	—— Kirkmichael	54
6.	—— Sprouston	65
7.	—— Longformacus	69
8.	—— Lauder	72
9.	—— Ayton	79
10.	—— Air	89
11.	—— Carriden	97
12.	—— Coylton	101
13.	—— Ballantrae *	103
14.	—— Terregles	114
15.	—— Edrom	116
16.	—— Innerwick	121
17.	—— Linton (in Peebleshire)	126
18.	—— Newlands	148
19.	—— Kirkmaiden	153
20.	—— Tinwald	159
21.	—— Crossmichael	167
22.	—— Parton	184
23.	—— Covington	190

Parish

* It may be proper to remark, that, by some mistake, it was omitted to be mentioned, that the account of Ballantrae was transmitted by the Rev. Mr William Donaldson, minister of that parish, who took a very early and active part in this inquiry.

No.		Page
24.	Parish of Troquire	194
25.	——— Muiravonside	200
26.	——— Penpont	203
27.	——— Cramond	211
28.	——— Dalmeny	227
29.	——— Sorbie	242
30.	——— Kiltearn	259
31.	——— Rothsay	301
32.	——— Kingarth	308
33.	——— Houston and Kilallan	315
34.	——— Biggar	332
35.	——— Dunsyre	337
36.	——— Yester	342
37.	——— Bathgate	348
38.	——— Stranraer	357
39.	——— Kettle	369
40.	——— Delting	385
41.	——— Kilrennie	409
42.	——— Arngask	414
43.	——— Dunnichen	419
44.	——— Carmylie	435
45.	——— Panbride	438
46.	——— Lunan	441
47.	——— Auchterderran	449
48.	——— Kinloss	462
49.	——— Oathlaw	465
50.	——— Gamrie	469
51.	——— Gask	479
52.	——— Lismore and Appin	482
53.	——— Meigle	503

STATIS-

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART I.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF JEDBURGH.

From Materials furniſhed by the Rev. Dr. THOMAS SOMERVILLE *Miniſter of Jedburgh.*

Origin of the Name.

IN a charter granted by William the Lyon of Scotland, to the abbot and monks of Jedburgh, in the year 1165 *, the names of Jedwarth and Jedburgh are promiſcuouſly uſed; but in modern times the name of Jedburgh alone is retained. The name is ſometimes written with a G; and is ſaid to be derived from the Gadeni, a tribe who antiently inhabited the whole tract of country that lies between Northumberland and the river Tiviot. It was perhaps the capital city belonging to the tribe, and hence obtained the name of Gadburgh or Jedburgh.

* A fac ſimile copy of this charter was publiſhed at Edinburgh by A. Bell, *anno* 1771.

Extent.—The extent of this pariſh is conſiderable, being about thirteen miles long, and in ſome places not leſs than ſix or ſeven miles broad: But the figure is irregular, being frequently interſected by the pariſhes of Oxnam and Southdean. It is bounded by Northumberland on the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt, by the pariſh of Oxnam on the eaſt, by Southdean on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt, by Bedrule on the weſt, by Ancrum on the north and north-weſt, and by Crailing on the north-eaſt.

Situation and Surface.—The pariſh is ſituated within the county of Roxburgh or Tiviotdale. It is the ſeat of a preſbytery, (that of Jedburgh) and belongs to the ſynod of Merſe and Tiviotdale. The ſoil is various. The lower part of the pariſh, lying upon the banks of the Tiviot, is flat, and in general conſiſts of light loam; but ſome part of it is graveliſh, and ſome deep clay. By far the greater part of the pariſh, however, conſiſts of hills and ſheep farms. The hills are generally green and dry; but the interjacent flats are covered with bent, and rather ſwampy. On the whole, not above a fifth or ſixth part of the pariſh conſiſts of arable ground.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—The climate alſo varies in different parts of the pariſh. It is often mild and temperate in the town of Jedburgh, environed with the high banks of the adjacent river, while it is ſharp and cold at the diſtance of a mile or two. The town itſelf is peculiarly healthy, fewer epidemical diſtempers prevailing there than in the neighbouring towns of Hawick and Kelſo. The rheumatiſm is the moſt common diſorder, which, though not frequent among people of better ſtation, who are comfortably clothed, fed, and lodged, is nevertheleſs very general among the poorer ſort of people, particularly ſuch as are advanced in life,

life, who, in conſequence of their miſerable mode of living, and ſtill more of the coldneſs and dampneſs of their houſes, owing partly to the ſcarcity and high price of fewel, have too much reaſon to complain of what they call the *pains*, or the pains within them. The air, however, on the whole, being very ſalubrious, there are many inſtances of longevity in the pariſh. An old woman, who died 15 years ago, ſaid that ſhe was 105; but her name was not in the pariſh record. There are ſeveral now living, both in the town and country part of the pariſh, above 80. Many have ſurvived 90 during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter; and there are three perſons in the town, now living, who are above 90. There is alſo a ſhepherd in the 94th year of his age, who attends his flock as uſual. The ravages which the ſmall-pox formerly made have been greatly mitigated, innoculation being of late very general and very ſucceſsful. In order to reconcile the minds of the common people to this uſeful practice, the heritors of Jedburgh, about ten years ago, allowed a ſmall ſum to defray the expence of innoculating the children of the poor, at a period when the diſeaſe was peculiarly fatal. This generous deſign was attended with the happieſt ſucceſs; among a thouſand patients, innoculated by Dr Lindſay in the courſe of above 20 years practice, only two have been loſt, and there is the ſtrongeſt reaſon to believe that theſe two had been previouſly infected in the natural way. The other phyſicians and ſurgeons of the place have alſo been, it is believed, equally fortunate in this important branch of their practice.

Rivers.—The river Jed, which runs through this pariſh, has its ſource in the north ſide of the Carter-hill, in the pariſh of Southdean, about the diſtance of fourteen miles from the town of Jedburgh *. It abounds with trouts, particularly

* On the ſouth ſide of the ſame hill, the river Tyne, which runs by Newcaſtle, takes its riſe.

larly with a ſpecies of ſmall red trout, of an excellent flavour. The river Tiviot alſo paſſes through this pariſh; the banks of which at firſt are ſteep, and its courſe rapid, yet afterwards it flows in beautiful curves, through wide and fertile haughs. In addition to its natural, it is to be hoped, that, in time, it will have artificial ſtreams, as it is believed, from a late ſurvey, that a canal might be carried from the ſea to Ancrum Bridge. At preſent, however, there are no internal commodities to compenſate for the great expence which ſuch a work would require.

Mineral Springs.—There are two chalybeate ſprings near Jedburgh, and there are appearances of more in different places of the pariſh, which have never been yet properly inveſtigated. One of the former, called Tud Hope Well, has been uſed with ſucceſs in ſcorbutic, and, it is ſaid, in rheumatic diſorders.

Hills.—The moſt remarkable hill in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, is the *Dunian*, which is ſituated partly in the pariſh of Jedburgh, and partly in that of Bedrule. Its elevation above the level of the ſea is 1024 feet. The ridge of hills on the ſouth ſide of the pariſh of Jedburgh, contiguous to the Engliſh border, is conſiderably higher, but ariſing from an elevated baſe, the elevation is not ſo ſtriking. The tops of theſe hills are in general conical, and thoſe who are attached to ſuch ideas, are at no loſs to diſcover a variety of circumſtances favourable to the volcanic ſyſtem.

Woods.—About fifty years ago the pariſh of Jedburgh abounded with wood. A few old oaks, elms, beeches, plains, and weeping willows ſtill remain. The wood, which begins to riſe from the old ſtocks upon the banks of the Jed, together with a variety of new plantations, form a beautiful and romantic

mantic ſcene on the road from Jedburgh to Northumberland.

Caves.—Veſtiges of artificial caves appear upon the banks of the river Jed, particularly two large caves dug out of the rock at Hundalee and Linthaughlee. Their dimenſions cannot now be aſcertained, being, from the ſteepneſs of the rock or bank, almoſt inacceſſible; but they are deſcribed by old perſons, who have formerly entered into them when the acceſs was leſs difficult, as conſiſting of three apartments, one on each hand of the entrance, and a larger one behind, which had the appearance of a great room. They were probably uſed as hiding places, or ſtrong holds to ſhelter the inhabitants in the neighbourhood upon any ſudden incurſion by Engliſh invaders.

Migratory Birds.—The wood-lark, bulfinch, and king's-fiſher have been frequently found on the banks of the Jed. The plover, fieldfare, and dotorel, abound in the ſouth and hilly parts of the pariſh. In the winter of 1788, during a ſevere fall of ſnow, a golden creſted wren made its appearance. The ſize of it was much ſmaller than the common wren; the colour of the body nearly the ſame; but the head was adorned with feathers of a beautiful orange colour and gold.

Number of Horſes, Sheep, &c.—There are 414 horſes in the pariſh, and it is believed above 8000 ſheep. There are ſome black cattle and horſes bred for ſale, but more for private uſe. A great number of cattle are bought in the autumn, and fed upon the foggage or after-graſs, and upon turnips. In regard to ſheep it may be proper to obſerve, that the value of wool, in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, has been greatly increaſing for ſeveral years paſt. The white wool in this pariſh has been

been ſold at from 18s. to 20s *per* ſtone for the laſt three years, and the wool laid with tar at 15s. 16s. and ſome of it at 18s. In the lower part of the country, ſome farmers in Beaumont-Water ſold their wool laſt ſeaſon at L. 1 : 2 : 0 *per* ſtone. Seven or eight fleeces generally go to a ſtone.

Population.—There is every reaſon to believe, that the population of this and of the neighbouring pariſhes has greatly diminiſhed ſince the commencement of the preſent century. Some years after the Union, and even when the returns were made to Dr. Webſter about forty years ago, the number of inhabitants in the pariſh was ſuppoſed to be about 6000. There is no evidence, however, of any particular enumeration having been made. At preſent they do not exceed half that number. The inhabitants of the town were numbered with great accuracy about fifteen years ago, and fell ſhort of 2000. The inhabitants of the country part of the pariſh do not exceed 800; and there are only two or three villages containing about 100 ſouls. The veſtiges of uninhabited houſes are to be ſeen both in the town and in the country. This decreaſe is partly to be attributed to the Union between the two kingdoms, by which the trade of Jedburgh was, in a great meaſure, ruined, and the population of the town diminiſhed of conſequence; and partly to the union of farms, which has depopulated the country.

Effects of the Union on the Borders.—The Union of the Parliaments of England and Scotland, has in ſome reſpects produced an effect very different from what might have been expected from it. Inſtead of promoting the increaſe, it has contributed to the diminution, of the people upon the Borders. Beſides, the influence of various natural propenſities, which induced men to flock to the ſcene where active talents were

were conſtantly employed, honour acquired, and the ſtrongeſt national antipathies gratified, there were obvious conſiderations of intereſt, which rendered the ſituation of the Borders more eligible, after violence and hoſtility were repreſſed, by the union of the two Crowns, and the conſequent interpoſition of the legiſlature of both kingdoms. The inhabitants of the Borders, while the taxes and the commercial regulations of the two kingdoms were different, enjoyed the opportunity of carrying on a very advantageous contraband trade, without danger to their perſons or fortunes. Into England they imported, ſalt, ſkins, and malt, which, till the Union, paid no duties in Scotland; and from England they carried back wool, which was exported from the Frith of Forth to France, with great profit. The veſtiges of forty malt-barns and kilns are now to be ſeen in the town of Jedburgh, while at preſent there are only three in actual occupation; and the corporation of ſkinners and glovers, formerly the moſt wealthy in that town, have, ſince the Union, greatly diminiſhed, both in regard to opulence and number. The proprietors of eſtates upon the Borders were well aware of the detriment which their property would ſuffer by the incorporating Union, and in general ſtrenuouſly oppoſed it; and the commiſſioners for carrying on that treaty, were ſo ſenſible of the loſs they would ſuſtain, that they agreed to appropriate part of the equivalent money, as it was called, to their indemnification and benefit *.

The Union has alſo been the cauſe of the depopulation of the Border country, by enlarging the ſphere, and facilitating the means of emigration. While the two countries were in

a

* See Defoe's Hiſtory of the Union, minute 47. obſervation 47.

a hostile state, there was neither inducement nor opportunity to move from the one to the other. The inhabitants often made inroads upon one another; but when the incursion was over, they returned to their own homes. Their antipathy and resentments were a rampart which excluded all social intercourse, and mixture of inhabitants. In this situation, misconduct and infamy at home were the only motives to emigration, and while this was the case, the exchange of inhabitants would be nearly at a par: But after the Union of the two kingdoms, and the decline or extinction of national antipathies, the balance arising from the interchange of inhabitants would run much in favour of the more wealthy country. Artificers and labourers would naturally resort where wages were higher, and all the accommodations of life were more plentiful, especially if this could be effected without the unpleasing idea of relinquishing home. To pass from the Borders of Scotland into Northumberland, was rather like going into another parish than into another kingdom.

Union of Farms.—The monopoly of farms, or the conjoining a number of small possessions into one, has long been prevalent in this part of the kingdom. There are instances in this, and in the neighbouring parishes, of individuals renting and farming lands formerly possessed by six, eight, or ten tenants; and there are instances, particularly of sheep farmers, holding two, or three farms in distant parts of the country, each of which was formerly considered as sufficiently large and extensive for one person. On the whole, this has not perhaps contributed to make the condition of the lower ranks of people worse, nor to diminish the population of the kingdom at large, though it certainly has had the effect of reducing the number of the inhabitants in every district where such a junction has taken place.

Births,

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.—The number of births within the parish of Jedburgh exceed 90 *per annum.* The burials in the parish church amount, at an average of three years, only to 49; but then, some families, in the country part of the parish, continue to bury in an old chapel ground, five miles south of Jedburgh, and several in the churchyards of Oxnam and Southdean; so that no certain conclusion can be formed upon this article. The number of marriages, at an average for the last three years, amounts only to 22; but it must be observed, that there are many irregular marriages in this parish and neighbourhood.

Rent of the Parish.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 23,264:6:10 Scots; the real rent, probably, above L. 7000 Sterling. The rent of the land varies. Sheep farms let from 3 s. 6 d. to 5 s. *per* acre. Some arable farms at the rate of 10 s. 15 s. and even 20 s. Land in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Jedburgh, at from L. 2 to L. 3. Houses, in the town, from 10 s. to L. 15 *per annum.*

Number of Proprietors, Tenants, &c.—There are sixteen greater, and a considerable number (about a hundred) of smaller proprietors, called here *Portioners*, from their having a small portion of land belonging to them. Of the greater proprietors, eight, either occasionally, or constantly, reside in the parish. There are two farmers who pay above L. 300 *per annum;* three who pay above L. 200; about fourteen who rent above L. 100; and a number of smaller tenants. There are three physicians, three surgeons, and ten writers, or attorneys.

Crops.—The principal crops in the parish, are oats and barley. Of late years, a considerable quantity of wheat is

ſown in the ground immediately ſurrounding the town of Jedburgh, and ſome on Tiviot ſide; but little or none in the ſouth part of the pariſh. Turnips and potatoes are a general crop all over this country. The culture of turnips, in particular, has been much ſtudied, and is greatly extended; every farmer laying out a great portion of his land in them. The ſoil of this country is believed to be more ſuitable to the growth of turnips, than that of any other part of Scotland. Formerly they were accuſtomed to feed cattle, in the houſe, with turnips; but it is now found more profitable, and has become more frequent, to let the ſheep eat them in the fields. It may be proper to obſerve, that, from the experience of ſome of the moſt ſkilful farmers, calves and ſheep-hogs may be fed, with great profit and ſafety, upon turnips; and that young beaſts fed on turnips attain the ſame ſize and value, at two years old, that they formerly did at three, when fed on graſs. It was formerly a common prejudice in this country, and ſtill prevails in other places, that turnips were noxious to young animals.

A conſiderable quantity of peaſe, a few beans, a great quantity of clover and rye-graſs, are ſown in this pariſh; but little flax or hemp, excepting ſome for private uſe. Oats are ſown from the beginning of March to the end of April. Early oats have been much uſed of late, and are found to be a great improvement. The barley is ſown from the middle of April to the end of May: The turnips from the beginning of June to the middle of July: The greater portion, I believe, in drills. Some wheat is ſown in September, but more in October. The wheat is generally ſown after potatoes, or fallow; the barley, and graſs ſeeds, after turnips; oats upon ley, or after fallow, or pairing and burning. A greater quantity of every ſpecies of grain, than what is neceſſary for the maintenance

maintenance of its inhabitants, is raiſed within the bounds of this pariſh. There may, perhaps, be ſome doubt with reſpect to wheat; but it is certain that oats, and oat-meal, are exported in conſiderable quantities to Lothian and Tweedale.

Orchards.—A great quantity of pears grow in the gardens or orchards of the town of Jedburgh. The trees, though very old, are remarkably fruitful; and it is calculated that the value of the fruit amounts, at a medium, to about L. 300 *per annum.*

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—There are four clergymen in the town of Jedburgh; the miniſter of the Eſtabliſhed Church, of the Relief congregation, of the Burgher, and the Antiburgher, ſeceders. Their reſpective examination rolls are as follows: Eſtabliſhed Church 890; Relief congregation 1200; Burgher congregation 600; Antiburgher 150. Total 2750 examinable perſons; that is, perſons from ſix to ſeven years old, and upwards. In order to account for the great proportion of diſſenters, it muſt be obſerved, that the ſect called the Relief Congregation had its origin in Jedburgh. In the year 1755, the council, and the generality of the inhabitants of the town, applied for a preſentation to Mr Boſton, miniſter of Oxnam, and being diſappointed in that application, built a large meeting-houſe, by contribution, and invited Mr Boſton to be their miniſter; ſeveral of the moſt ſubſtantial members of the congregation binding themſelves to pay him L. 120 *per annum.* He accepted of their call; and prevailed upon Mr Gilleſpie, who had been depoſed for diſobedience to the orders of the General Aſſembly, to join him, under the denomination of the Preſbytery of Relief; profeſſing to differ from the Eſtabliſhed Church upon no other point, than the right of patrons to appoint miniſters againſt the inclinations

tions of the people. This ſect, more accommodating to the ſpirit of the times, have quickly ſpread over Scotland, and, probably, comprehend the greateſt part of the Scotch diſſenters. Near a half of all the families in the pariſh of Jedburgh, and a great proportion of the families in all the ſurrounding pariſhes, are members of this congregation. There are not more than five or ſix who profeſs the Epiſcopal religion, and there are no Catholics, in the pariſh.

The preſent incumbent, Dr. Thomas Somerville, was admitted miniſter of Jedburgh in 1773. His predeceſſors were Meſſrs Semple, M'Kay, Ruet, Wincheſter, Douglas, and M'Knight, which laſt he ſucceeded in the charge. He has been married twenty years, and has two ſons and four daughters. The King is patron of the pariſh. The living conſiſts of 169 bolls, half oat-meal and half barley, Linlithgow meaſure; L. 44 in money, a manſe, and a glebe of ſeven Engliſh acres, in all amounting to about L. 150 *per annum* in value. A part of the old Abbey Church is ſtill uſed as the place of worſhip. The manſe was built about 60 years ago, and has often been repaired at a great expence.

State of the Poor.—The number of poor upon the country roll of the pariſh amounts to 55, and of thoſe in the town roll to 37. They are maintained by aſſeſſments. For ſupporting the county poor, a tax is laid upon the different proprietors of land, in proportion to the valued rents. The common method of proceeding in this buſineſs is as follows: The miniſter intimates from the pulpit, that on ſuch a day a meeting of the heritors and elders is to be held, for the purpoſe of making a proviſion for the maintenance of the poor for the enſuing quarter. Theſe meetings generally take place near the term of Candlemas, Whitſunday, Lammas, and Martinmas.

Martinmas. Upon the day of meeting the heritors elect a preſes, after which the minutes of the former ſederunt, and the roll of the poor are read by the clerk. Forming a calculation from the number already ſtanding upon the roll, and the applications made to them, the heritors aſſeſs themſelves in a certain ſum to be collected from them ſeverally, according to the proportion of their valued rents. The proprietor pays one half of the aſſeſſment, and the tenant the other. Though the tenants are not mentioned in the ſummons, yet ſuch of them as chuſe to attend are made welcome, and their advice and information liſtened to by the meeting. The ſum aſſeſſed is raiſed by the heritors and kirk-ſeſſion together, in ſuch proportions as ſeem adequate to the neceſſities of the poor. Such perſons as are reduced to the neceſſity of applying to the heritors for charity, from any accidental tranſient cauſe, ſuch as *diſeaſe* or *misfortune*, receive what is called *an interim ſupply*, i. e. a certain ſum for that quarter only: The aged and infirm, and ſuch as are likely to continue under the ſame neceſſity of depending upon public charity, are taken upon the poors roll at a certain weekly allowance. The perſons taken upon the roll are obliged to ſubſcribe a bond or deed of conveyance, making over and bequeathing all their effects to the heritors; and though the heritors ſeldom exact their effects, yet the ſubſcription of the bond ſerves as a check to prevent perſons, who may be poſſeſſed of concealed property, from alienating the public charity. The ſum aſſeſſed is levied by a collector, appointed by the heritors, and diſtributed by him to the perſons admitted upon the roll, according to the proportions allotted to them. This mode of providing for the parochial poor was adopted in the pariſh of Jedburgh *anno* 1742, when the number of the poor increaſing, from the ſcarcity and high price of proviſions, the heritors and kirk-ſeſſion were obliged to have recourſe

courſe to the legal method of obtaining the contributions of abſent proprietors. Theſe monthly aſſeſſments have varied from two ſhillings to three ſhillings and ſix-pence *per* quarter, on each hundred pounds of valued rent. The aſſeſſment for the laſt twelve months was at the rate of three ſhillings *per* quarter, but did not produce the ſum required, viz. L. 37 : 8 : 8 *per* quarter. The deficiency is made up from the weekly collections.

The poor belonging to the borough of Jedburgh, are provided for by a plan in ſome reſpects ſimilar to, but in others materially different from, that above deſcribed. The magiſtrates hold quarterly meetings, in which they aſſeſs the borough for the maintenance of their poor, and portion the ſums in the ſame manner as the heritors do; but the aſſeſſment is not proportioned to the value of the property of individuals within the royalty; but according to a valuation of the property of the burgeſſes and inhabitants, eſtimated by ſworn aſſeſſors appointed by the magiſtrates. The aſſeſſors, in forming their calculation, and fixing the portion of aſſeſſment to which each individual is liable, have reſpect not only to oſtenſible property, but to the profits of trade, and other ſuppoſed advantages. It is obvious that ſuch a vague and arbitrary mode of calculation, is extremely liable to partiality and error.

The ſums appropriated for the maintenance of each individual vary, according to the circumſtances of the claimant. To ſingle perſons who can do no work, a ſhilling, one ſhilling and ſix-pence, one ſhilling and eight-pence is allowed weekly. Six-pence, eight-pence, ten-pence to thoſe who are infirm and receive ſmall wages. Eight, ten, twelve, and ſometimes twenty ſhillings *per* quarter have been allowed for

interim

interim ſupply. There are few inſtances of any family receiving above two ſhillings, or two ſhillings and ſix-pence *per* week. Theſe proportions refer to the poor belonging to the country part of the pariſh; but the allowance given to the poor of the town is more ſcanty and inadequate.

Beſides the aſſeſſments above-mentioned, the town of Jedburgh holds the principal ſum of L. 422 upon bond to the ſeſſion, ariſing from the accumulation of various legacies, the intereſt of which is annually diſtributed according to the deſtination of the donors: Some of it for educating poor children, ſome for the relief of poor houſeholders, ſome appropriated to the poor within the town, and ſome to the poor of the town and country equally. A great portion of theſe charities ariſes from legacies of the Lady Yeſter, who was the daughter of Kerr of Fairnyherſt in this pariſh, and celebrated for her charity. A bridewell or correction-houſe has been lately erected in the town, at the expence of the heritors of the county at large, and has been found very uſeful in overawing vagrants, puniſhing ſmaller offences, and, particularly, for the accommodation of perſons diſordered in mind, who are maintained there at the expence of the pariſhes to which they belong.

Language.—The common people in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh pronounce many words, particularly ſuch as end in a guttural ſound, with a remarkable broad, and even harſh accent. They ſtill make uſe of the old Scotch dialect. Many of the names of places, however, are evidently derived from the Erſe, and expreſſive of their local ſituation in that language. For inſtance,—Dunian, *John's Hill*;—Minto, *Kid's Hill*;—Hawick, *Village on a River*;—Ancrum, anciently called Alnicromb, *a Creek in the River*; &c. &c.

Manners

Manners and Morals of the People.—There is rather a want of induſtry in the town of Jedburgh, owing to the deſtructive influence of borough politics; but to this rule there are many exceptions; and the common labourers in the country are remarkable for the quantity of work which they perform. In general, it may be obſerved, that all ranks of people live more ſoberly, and are leſs addicted to drinking, than they were ſome years ago; and that perſons in a better ſituation are charitably diſpoſed, and were particularly liberal in their contributions for the relief of the poor, after the unfortunate ſeaſon of 1782. Crimes are becoming every day more rare. Only one inſtance of ſuicide has occurred for theſe 17 years paſt; and no inhabitant of the pariſh has been baniſhed for theſe many years. Five have ſuffered capital puniſhments; but not one of them for murder. It is, indeed, one of the moſt ſtriking evidences of the progreſs of civilization, and one of the moſt pleaſing effects of a regular government, that in a country, formerly the ſcene of depredating violence, fewer inſtances of crimes, or of puniſhments, have occurred during the laſt 50 years, than perhaps in any other diſtrict of equal extent in the kingdom.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The principal diſadvantage under which this pariſh labours, is its great diſtance from coal, which is found to be the cheapeſt fewel, though there are ſeveral large peat moſſes in many parts of the neighbourhood. The neareſt coal to Jedburgh is at Ryecheſter, diſtant about 20 miles, on the Engliſh border. Some Lothian coal is brought by the carts which carry grain to the Dalkeith market, and is ſold at nearly the ſame price with the Engliſh. The county, in general, and the neighbourhood of Jedburgh in particular, is likely to derive great advantage from the improvement and extenſion of roads, which does great honour

to

to the activity and public ſpirit of the gentlemen who have promoted them. There is a turnpike road now carried from Jedburgh to Newcaſtle, which ſhortens the diſtance from thence to Edinburgh conſiderably; and there is at preſent a proſpect of carrying one, in a direct line, from Jedburgh to Boroughbridge in Yorkſhire, which could not fail of being frequented, as it would render the road between London and Edinburgh nearer by 38 miles than by Berwick.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF HOLYWOOD,

IN DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

From Materials furniſhed by the Rev. Dr. BRYCE JOHNSTON, *Miniſter of that Pariſh.*

Origin of the Name.

HOLYWOOD is evidently derived from the holy wood, or grove of oak trees, which ſurrounded a large Druidical temple, ſtill ſtanding, within half a mile of the pariſh church. It is formed of twelve very large whin or moor ſtones, as they are called, which incloſe a circular piece of ground of about eighty yards in diameter. The oaks have now all periſhed; but there is a tradition of their exiſting in the laſt age. Many of their roots have been dug out of the ground by the preſent miniſter; and he has ſtill one of them in his poſſeſſion.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—The pariſh lies in the diviſion of the county of Dumfries called Nithſdale, in the Preſbytery and Synod of Dumfries. It is about ten Engliſh miles long, and one and an half broad, on an average. It is bounded by the pariſh of Dumfries on the eaſt; by Terregles, Kirkpatrick-Irongray, and Kirkpatrick-Durham, on the ſouth; by a ſmall part of Glencairn, and by a large track of Dunſcore, on the weſt and north; and by Kirkmahoe on the north-eaſt. Being

ing ſituated in the middle of a broad valley, it is in general flat and low land. The hills in the pariſh are neither high nor rocky.

Rivers.—The river Nith runs along the whole of the eaſt end of the pariſh, interſecting it, however, in one place for above a mile in length. The river Cluden, alſo a conſiderable one, runs along the ſouth ſide of the pariſh above eight miles, and interſects it in three places, emptying itſelf into the Nith in the ſouth-eaſt corner of the pariſh, near the old College or Provoſtry of Lincluden, which ſtands on the Galloway ſide of the river, in the pariſh of Terregles.

Fiſh.—The Cluden abounds in fine burn trouts, a few pike of a middle ſize, and of excellent quality, ſome ſalmon, ſome ſea trout, and herlings *. The Nith produces the ſame kinds of fiſh, but with this difference, that the herlings, ſea trout, and ſalmon, are much more plentiful in it than in the Cluden. One peculiarity deſerves particular notice: Though the two rivers join at the ſouth-eaſt corner of the pariſh, each has its own diſtinct ſpecies of ſalmon. The Cluden ſalmon are conſiderably thicker and ſhorter in their body, and greatly ſhorter in their head, than thoſe of the Nith. The burn trouts abound in the ſpring and ſummer; the herlings and ſea trout in July and Auguſt; and the ſalmon from the beginning of March to the beginning of October. The ſalmon is in the greateſt perfection in June and July. In the ſpring it ſells for about one ſhilling a pound of 16 ounces, and gradually

* Herlings are a ſmall kind of trout, a little larger than a herring, and ſhaped like a ſalmon; its fleſh is reddiſh, like that of the ſalmon or ſea trout, but conſiderably paler. They abound in all the rivers in this part of the country, and have the name of herling in all the adjoining pariſhes.

daily decreases in price, as the season advances, to 2½d. a pound. It is all sold in the town of Dumfries, and to the families in the adjacent country. Dumfries being so near, and many of the fishermen living in the town, the price in that market, and on the spot where it is caught in this parish, is always the same. The prices of the other kinds of fish are always a little lower than that of salmon; and they rise and fall with it. About ten years ago, the price of fish in this country was scarcely half of what it is at present. The increased price is perhaps owing, in part, to the increased consumption, and luxury of the inhabitants, but principally to the great demand for this fish, to supply the rich and populous manufacturing towns in Lancashire; for, within these last ten years, very considerable quantities of fresh salmon have been sent, by land carriage, into that country, from the Solway Frith, and the mouths of all the rivers that run into it.

Soil.—The soil of this parish is of four different kinds, viz. a considerable tract of land, about a fourth part of the parish, in the east, along the river Nith, and, on the south, for about seven miles up the river Cluden, is a deep rich light loam, and free from stones: 2*d*, Another fourth part, contiguous to the former, is a light dry fertile soil, lying on a bed of sandy gravel, producing heavy crops of corn and grass in a showery season; but it is greatly parched up in dry seasons: 3*d*, Another fourth part, which joins this last, is a deep strong loam, interspersed with stones, upon a tilly bed; it is naturally wet, stiff to plough, and not so fertile as either of the two former; but, when drained, limed, and properly wrought, more productive both of corn and grass than either of them, in all varieties of season, excepting only a cold and wet summer. 4*th*, The remaining part, which is hilly, is somewhat similar

to

to the laſt, only not ſo deep and wet; it produces a kind of graſs, neither very fine nor very coarſe, which, in ſome of the higher parts of the hills, is mixed with heath, and a few other hard weeds.

Air, Climate, &c.—The air is dry, and remarkably wholeſome. The ſingular healthineſs of the inhabitants may, however, be attributed to the following cauſes. They do not live in towns, or even villages; they are not employed in ſedentary occupations; being either country gentlemen or farmers, they live in houſes detached from each other; they are engaged in active employments in the open air; they are induſtrious, ſober, and chearful. The dryneſs of the air is owing to the peculiar local ſituation of the pariſh. The clouds, intercepted by the hills on every ſide, float in fogs on the top of them, while the inhabitants enjoy a clear and dry air in the valley. At other times, when the clouds break into rain on the hills, the greateſt part of it falls on the hills, or the ſides of the valley, while the ſkirts of the ſhowers only reach its central parts. Add to theſe circumſtances, that the two rapid rivers carry off the ſuperfluous water from the land, and the moiſture from the air.

Seed-time and Harveſt.—The time of ſowing wheat is from the middle of September to the middle of October; oats, peaſe, beans, hemp, and flax, from the 10th of March to the middle of April; potatoes and barley from the middle of April to the 10th of May; and turnips from the 10th to the 24th of June. The harveſt generally begins about, or before, the middle of Auguſt; and the crop is got totally into the barns, and barn-yards, by the end of September. In cold and wet ſeaſons, like the laſt, it is, however, ſomewhat later.

Epidemical

Epidemical Diseases.—No local distempers, or sickness of any kind, are prevalent in the parish. In the months of February and March, indeed, some fevers appear among the people of low circumstances, especially in that district of the parish which lies in the narrowest part of the valley; but these seem chiefly owing to poor living, and bad accommodation, during the winter season, and perhaps to the dampness of the preceding months.

Manufactures.—It was before mentioned, that there are neither towns nor villages in the parish, but that the inhabitants live in detached houses; manufactures, therefore, cannot well exist in this district. The dearness of fuel is another obstacle: Peats are bad, scarce, and consequently dear; and coals are either carted 24 miles land carriage, or brought from England by water. These last would be moderately cheap, were it not for the high duties laid on them, which are as fatal to the improvement of this, as they are to many other parts of Scotland; nor can this part of the country ever greatly improve, until these duties be abolished.

Population.—On the last day of the year 1790, there were living in the parish of Holywood 736 persons, of whom there were,

Under ten years of age, - -	166
Between ten and twenty, - -	146
Above twenty unmarried, - -	160
Widowers or widows, - - -	40
Married, - - - -	224
	736

Out

Out of the 736 perſons, 11 were between 80 and 90 years old, which is an uncommon number among ſo few inhabitants. The return to Dr. Webſter of the population of Holywood, about forty years ago, was 612 ſouls; the inhabitants have therefore increaſed 124 ſince that period.

Abſtract of the Baptiſms, Marriages, and Burials, for the laſt ten Years.

Years.	Baptiſms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1781	23	7	10
1782	18	0	20
1783	15	3	8
1784	15	1	11
1785	13	4	8
1786	16	6	14
1787	16	6	11
1788	14	9	8
1789	13	6	8
1790	19	6	10
	162	48	108
Yearly average nearly,	16	5	11

The great number of deaths in 1782, was owing to an infectious fever in the weſt part of the pariſh, where the valley is narroweſt; and the large number in 1786, was owing to the ravages of the natural ſmall-pox.

Diviſion of the Inhabitants, and their Occupations.—All the inhabitants are farmers, and cottagers employed by them, except

cept those afterwards mentioned. About ten of the inhabitants are small proprietors of lands, which they occupy themselves. There are eight weavers, two bleachers, two shoemakers, two millers, five blacksmiths, five masons, four taylors, and eight joiners; all of whom are employed in working for the inhabitants of the parish, and not in manufacturing articles for sale. There are no household servants except in gentlemens families, and these are few. There are about thirty-two male, and thirty-six female labouring servants. The greatest part of the farming and dairy work is done by the farmers themselves, their wives, their sons and daughters, and cottagers, which last work either by the piece, or by the year, receiving what is called a *benefit*: that is, a house, yard, peats, 52 stones of meal, a quantity of potatoes, and as much money as, with these articles, would, *communibus annis*, amount to thirteen pounds Sterling *per annum*. Beside the above mentioned servants, some shearers are hired by the day from the adjacent moor countries. It is remarkable that all the inhabitants are natives of this island, except one person only, who comes from Ireland. There are no nobility resident in in the parish, and the gentry amount only to twenty-seven persons, besides their domestics. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, except six Cameronians, nine Burgher Seceders, two of the Church of England, and three Catholics; but most of all these denominations attend the parish church occasionally, except the Catholics.

General Character.—They are a sober, regular, and industrious people, all employed in farming, except the few above mentioned. They are generous and humane, although they have not been called to the exertions of these qualities by any remarkable events, except in the years 1782 and 1783, as shall be mentioned afterwards. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree,

degree, the conveniencies and comforts of ſociety, and are in general as contented with their ſituation as moſt people. Their condition, however, might be meliorated, could the heavy multures be removed, which hinder improvements in agriculture; or could coals be imported duty free, which checks any attempts to the eſtabliſhing manufactures. With reſpect to the morals of the people, it may be obſerved, that during the time of the preſent incumbent, which is 19 years, only one perſon has been baniſhed for theft, and one enliſted for a ſoldier: This laſt, in a few months, ſolicited his friends to make application to get him out of the army, which they did with ſucceſs, and he has ever ſince lived in the pariſh an induſtrious labouring man. In regard to other particulars, they are healthy, robuſt, and rather above the common ſtature. Several inſtances of longevity have been obſerved among them. Within theſe few years, three perſons have died, whoſe ages were 90, 95, and 96.

Church.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 120 Sterling. The laſt patron was Robert Beveridge of Fourmerkland, Eſq; the proprietor of an eſtate of that name in the pariſh. He died lately, and by his death the patronage devolved to his ſiſters, the eldeſt of whom is married to the Rev. Mr James M'Millan miniſter of Torthorwald.

The manſe * and offices were all new built in 1773; the church in 1779; and the two ſchool houſes in 1782, all which buildings are now in excellent repair.

* The parſonage houſe, thus called all over Scotland, is evidently derived, as *manſion* is, from the Latin *maneo*, to remain or abide.

State of the Poor.—The average number of poor who now receive alms is fifteen. The annual sum expended for their relief is about L. 32 Sterling, produced by the collections in the church on Sundays, excepting the interest of a small sum appropriated to them. These fifteen persons are all maintained in their own houses, or boarded in other families; none of them are kept in hospitals or work-houses. The greatest number of them earn about two-thirds of their maintenance. Those who are orphans under ten years old, or who are very old and infirm, and without relations to assist them, are boarded out at the rate of L. 4 Sterling *per annum*. Besides the relief from the parish, the poor receive frequent supplies of food and clothes from charitable and well disposed people. They are however kept from begging from door to door most effectually, by the assurance of their inevitably losing all parish relief if they persist in the practice. As the church session * is extremely attentive to give them relief, according to their necessities, to provide medical assistance for them when sick, to pay the schoolmaster for teaching their children reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic, their own interest induces them to comply with the desire of the session, not to beg. Beggars, however, occasionally infest the parish, but they do not belong to, nor reside in it.

Price of Grain and Provisions.—The price of wheat, barley, and oats, are generally regulated by the Liverpool and Greenock markets, being just as much below the prices at these places, as will pay freight, and afford a very moderate profit to the corn merchants, who export the grain to one or other of

* The *church session* is the same as the *vestry* in the English parishes.

of theſe places. For many years paſt the price of grain has been in general the ſame as in the London market, which is always a little below that of Liverpool. Grain is in general cheaper here about Candlemas, the markets being then overſtocked by the farmers anxiety to make up their half year's rent, which is payable at that term. *Communibus annis*, wheat is 5s. barley 2s. 2d. and oats 1s. 10d. the Winchester buſhel. The preſent average price of beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork through the year is 3½d. the pound of 16 ounces, for thoſe of the beſt qualities. At particular times of the year they are all much cheaper; and though at ſome periods they amount to 5d. a pound, theſe dear times do not laſt long. The price of a roaſting pig is 4s.; of a gooſe 2s.; of a turkey 2s. 6d.; of a duck 10d.; of a hen 1s.; of a chicken 3d.; of rabbits, though there are few of them, 1s. the pair without the ſkins; butter is 9d. the pound of 24 ounces; cheeſe varies according to its richneſs and age.

Price of Labour.—The wages of men labourers are 1s. a day from the 1ſt of March to the 1ſt of November, and 10d. the reſt of the year, except that in time of harveſt they are 13d.; and of mowing, 18d. The wages of women are, for working at peats, 8d.; at turnip weeding, hay making, and other farm work in ſummer, 7d.; ſhearing in harveſt 13d. Both men and women, furniſh their own proviſions out of their wages. The day wages of a carpenter and a maſon are 1s. 8d.; of a bricklayer and ſlater 2s.; * of a taylor,

* The wages of theſe four artiſts were 2d. leſs before the year 1788; at that time an uncommon ſpirit for building appearing in the country, increaſed the demand for labour of that kind. This ſpirit proceeded from the general taſte for good houſes, which marks this period, and from many monied men, who, having purchaſed eſtates in this part of the country, are building ele-

lor, 1s. without, or 6d. with meat. Work, however, is generally done by the piece. The average of farm servants, when they eat in the house, is L. 7 for men, and L. 3 for women; but the farm servants are generally paid by what is called a benefit, before described; and if the man's wife and children are employed by the farmer, their work is separately paid for. The wages of domestic servants are nearly the same with those of farm servants.

Expences of a Labourer's Family. The expences of a common labourer, when married, and with four or five children, is about L. 16 a year. The wages which he receives, together with the industry of his wife, enable him to live tolerably comfortable, and to give his children an education proper for their station, provided he and his wife are sober, industrious, and frugal: Those of them who are embarrassed in their circumstances, owe their poverty either to their own, or their wife's bad conduct. That the labourers can maintain their families at this small expence, is owing to the farmers, from whom they have cottages, allowing them as much land for one year's rent free, to plant potatoes in, as they can manure sufficiently with ashes, or such dung as they can provide for themselves; and these potatoes constitute at least one half of their year's food.

Division and Rent of Lands.—A great part of the parish is inclosed, but a considerable part still lies open. The farmers seem sufficiently convinced of the advantages of inclosing, and would willingly allow their landlords interest for such sums of money as would be necessary for making inclosures. The

gant mansion-houses for themselves, and good farm-houses for their tenants.

The farms are in general from L. 40 to L. 150 a year; but there are ſome few from L. 40, down to as ſmall as L. 8. About the year 1771 a ſpirit of improvement appeared in the pariſh, when the farms became larger than they had formerly been; but for ſome years paſt they have continued nearly of the ſame ſize. The beſt arable land is let from L. 1 : 1 : 0 to L. 1 : 10 : 0; and the inferior, from 20s. to 7s. an acre. The hill paſture is not let by the acre, but by the lump. The whole rent of the pariſh amounts to ſomething more than L. 3000 Sterling *per annum*, including houſes, and the ſmall fiſheries in the Nith and Cluden. The heritors are thirty-one in number, of whom ten of the ſmall ones and three of the largeſt reſide in the pariſh. There is no map of the pariſh, the number of acres in it have not conſequently been preciſely aſcertained; they are eſtimated at about 7500. Of theſe about 60 are employed for raiſing wheat, 250 for barley, 20 for peaſe and beans, 10 for rye, 1310 for oats, 100 for potatoes, 30 for turnip and cabbage, 20 for flax and hemp, 500 for ſown graſs, the reſt is paſturage, except about 150 acres for roads and plantations. None of the ground is common; and every proprietor knows the exact marches of his eſtate; but a conſiderable quantity of the hilly part muſt always lie in a ſtate of paſturage, not being arable on account of the ſteepneſs of the hills. Several hundred acres, however, of the lower parts of theſe unbroken grounds, are capable of cultivation, and, if properly improved, would pay well for the labour beſtowed on them. The greateſt part of the pariſh is thirled * to the mill

* When the laird, *i. e.* lord of the manor, builds a mill, he obliges his tenants to have all their corn ground at that mill only. The farms are then ſaid to be thirled, or under thirlage to the mill. But ſometimes, as is the caſe here, the tenants of one eſtate are thirled to the mill of another, which, when the dues are high, is a great bar to improvement.

mill of Cluden, and pays a very high multure *, which greatly tends to retard the cultivation and improvement of the diſtrict.

Mode of Cultivation.—There are 70 ploughs in the pariſh. Thoſe uſed in the firſt diviſion, ſee p. 20. and the greateſt part of the ſecond, viz. the light ſoil, are the ſmall Engliſh plough; in part of the ſecond, and adjoining part of the third, they uſe the Scots plough with the Engliſh mould-board, or ploughs compoſed partly on the model of the old Scots, and partly on that of the Engliſh; and in the remaining part of the third, the Scots plough only is uſed. Each of theſe ploughs ſeems well adapted for the nature of the ſoil in the diſtrict where they are uſed. The Engliſh plough is certainly the beſt, but it can only work properly in land that is free from ſtones. The Scots plough, when properly made, is doubtleſs the fitteſt for ſtrong land; and, laſtly, the plough compoſed of the two, is the moſt proper for land that is compoſed of the two kinds above mentioned; and theſe are the nature of the different ſoils in which the ſeveral kinds of ploughs are uſed. The ploughs are commonly drawn by two ſtrong horſes, and one man both holds the plough and drives the horſes, with a pair of long reins. When ſtiff land is to be broken up from graſs, three, or ſometimes four horſes are yoked into a plough of the ſame conſtruction, but of a ſtronger make.

Produce.—The vegetable produce of this pariſh has already been ſpecified, under the article, *Diviſion of Land.* With reſpect to animal productions, it is principally diſtinguiſhed for a breed of black cattle, for which the county of Drumfries in general

* *Multure* is a certain ſtipulated quantity of meal, given as payment to the miller for grinding the corn: And all corn grown on farms thirled to the mill is obliged to pay multure, whether the corn be ground at that mill or elſewhere.

general, and the neighbouring counties of the ſtewartry and the county of Galloway are alſo famous. They are very profitable for fattening, and many thouſands of them are annually ſold and ſent into England. They are handſome, of a middle ſize, and weigh well for their height. When fat for the butcher, the four quarters weigh at an average 36 ſtones of 16 pounds; but ſeveral of them amount to 60 or 70 ſtones. The number of black cattle in the whole pariſh amounts to about 1200. The ſheep, which are kept in the hilly part of the pariſh, are the common Scots ſheep, white on the body, but black on the face and legs; they are very hardy and their wool is ſtrong and ſhaggy, but coarſe. In the low cultivated diſtricts there are two kinds of Engliſh ſheep, the one long bodied and long legged, introduced into this country by Culley, they are commonly known by the name of Muggs; the other is alſo long bodied, but broad backed and ſhort legged, introduced by Bakewell. They are both all white, body, face, and legs: Both of them have much finer wool, and a larger quantity of it, than the Scots ſheep. Bakewell's kind have the fineſt ſhort wool. From an experiment lately tried, a croſs between the two breeds ſeems to anſwer well; viz. the ram of the Culley, the ewe of the Bakewell breed. In this cultivated diſtrict and mild climate, the Engliſh are preferred to the Scots ſheep, on account of the greater quantity, and finer quality, of the wool; their being leſs hurtful to the hedges; and their greater weight when ſold to the butcher. The whole number of ſheep in the pariſh, amounts at preſent only to about 1000.

The produce of the diſtrict is, on the whole, much greater than ſufficient for the conſumption of the inhabitants. About two thirds of the whole is carried to markets out of the pariſh, viz. a conſiderable quantity of butter, milk, veal, mutton, beef,

beef, wheat, oat-meal, and barley, to Dumfries; a large quantity of wheat and barley to Whitehaven and Liverpool; of oats to Greenock; and a great number of young black cattle and ſheep to the towns in the neighbourhood.

There are hares, and ſome foxes, and all the fowls which are natives of the ſouth part of Scotland. The migratory birds are the ſwallow, and the cuckow. During the whole year the ſea gulls, commonly called, in this pariſh, *ſea maws*, occaſionally come from the Solway Frith to this part of the country; their arrival ſeldom fails of being followed by a high wind, and heavy rain, from the ſouth-weſt, within twenty-four hours; and they return to the Frith again as ſoon as the ſtorm begins to abate.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads were originally made by the ſtatute labour; but in that way they were neither half made, nor half kept in repair. Several years ago, an act of parliament was obtained for this county, converting the ſtatute labour into money, to be paid by the occupiers of land, at a rate not exceeding 12 s. in the 100 merks of Scotch valuation, and a certain ſum to be paid by the poſſeſſors of houſes in towns and villages. In ſome diſtricts of the county, where making the roads is expenſive, the occupiers of land have been aſſeſſed to the *ultimum*; but in this, and ſome others, the aſſeſſment has never been more than 6 s. for each 100 merks. The converſion money is very well laid out in this pariſh. The roads are put, and kept, in as good repair as the ſum collected can poſſibly do; but, as the roads are extenſive, and, as there is a thoroughfair through the pariſh, from a large and populous ſurrounding country, to the markets at Dumfries, this ſum is too ſmall to keep the roads in ſufficient repair; and it would probably be cheaper,

er, in the end, to lay on the full aſſeſſment of 12 s. for a few years, till all the roads are completely finiſhed, and then to reduce the aſſeſſment to 4 s. which would be ſufficient for keeping them in repair. Leſt the preſent tenants ſhould be aggrieved by paying 12 s. while their ſucceſſors, who would enjoy the benefit of good roads, pay only 4 s. the landlords ſhould pay the additional 6 s. and receive it afterwards from the ſubſequent tenants at 2 s. a year, till the landlords be reimburſed. A great turnpike road is now making between Carliſle and Glaſgow, which runs through the pariſh. It will be completely finiſhed in this county before, or about the beginning of May next. The tolls upon it are moderate, and will be fully ſufficient for making and repairing it. This road, like all other turnpikes under proper management, muſt be highly advantageous to the country. The bridges in the pariſh are good. The only large one in it was originally built, and is ſtill kept in repair, by the county of Dumfries and ſtewartry of Galloway, as it is built over the Cluden, which is the march between the two counties. The ſmaller ones, being all within the pariſh, were built, and are kept in repair, by the pariſh.

Antiquities.—There are no other remains of antiquity than the Druidical temple already mentioned, and two old houſes built in the tower faſhion. There is one large heap of ſmall ſtones, a part of which was opened ſeveral years ago, and ſome human bones ſaid to have been found in it. The Abbey of Holywood ſtood in the ſite of a part of the preſent churchyard. About half of the head of the croſs of this abbey was ſtanding in the year 1779, when it ſerved for the pariſh church. Theſe remains, however, were then pulled down, and the materials uſed, in part, for building the preſent new church. The veſtiges of the old abbey are ſufficiently evi-

dent in the church-yard; and the adjoining farm retains the name of Abbey. The preſent church has two fine toned bells, taken out of the old building; one of which, by an inſcription and date on it, appears to have been conſecrated by the Abbot John Wrich, in the year 1154. From undoubted records, this abbey belonged to the monks of the order of Premontrè, which was inſtituted in the dioceſe of Loon in France, in the year 1120, and was ſo called, becauſe, as the monks ſay, the place was "divina revelatione praemonſtratum."

Etymology of Names of Places.—The names of places in this pariſh ſeem to be derived partly from the Gaelic, and partly from the Engliſh, and ſome from the Daniſh. The names derived from the Engliſh are either expreſſive of the particular ſituation of the places, or of the proprietor to whom they originally belonged. Thus *Broomrig*, ſituated on a ridge that produces much broom; *Gooliehill*, ſituated on a riſing ground producing much gool *; *Moſsſide*, ſituated on the ſide of a moſs; *Stepford*, ſituated at a ford in the Cluden where foot paſſangers croſs the water on ſtepping ſtones, that have been placed there time immemorial; *Morinton*, the town of Morine; *Stewarton*, the town of Stewart, &c. *Holm*, derived from the Daniſh, in which language *holm* ſignifies an iſland. From the Gaelic are moſt probably derived *Speddock*, *Barfreggan*, *Glengaber*, *Glengaur*, *M'Whannick*, &c. *Killneſs* ſeems to be compounded of two languages, *cella*, the Latin for a chapel or cell, and *neſs*, or *naes*, the Daniſh for a promontory, or head land, (it may alſo be derived from the Latin *naſus*), *Killneſs* ſignifying the chapel or cell on the promontory: The place

* *Gool*, Dr Johnſton ſays, is a weed with a yellow flower, which grows among the corn, on light lands, in wet ſeaſons, about Lammas. It is the wild marygold.

place ſo called is the field where the Druidical temple above mentioned ſtands, and it is prominent into the river Cluden.

Eminent Men Natives of the Pariſh.—Holywood has produced no men of eminence in learning or ſcience, except Mr Charles Irvine ſurgeon. He was a younger ſon of the late William Irvine of Gribton, Eſq; and the perſon who, ſeveral years ago, diſcovered the method of rendering ſalt water freſh, for which he was rewarded by government with a grant of five thouſand pounds.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The harveſts of 1782, and 1783, were very late, eſpecially that of 1782. Before the corn was all cut in this part of the country, there were intenſe froſts and heavy ſnows. On the 2d of November 1782, in particular, a very heavy fall of ſnow covered the corn ſo deep, and lay ſo long, that they could not be cut for ſeveral days after. Though the harveſt was uncommonly late in this pariſh in theſe two years, and though the lateſt of the corn in it was hurt by the froſt, yet the harveſt here was earlier than in any other part of Scotland; and the greateſt part of the corn was ripened before the froſts came on. Under all theſe untoward circumſtances, the crops of theſe years were, however, uncommonly good, as is the caſe, not only this year, but alſo in all late years, owing to the peculiar dryneſs and earlineſs of the ſoil and climate of this pariſh. The general ſcarcity of meal in Scotland during theſe two years, and the great demand for ſeed corn from thoſe counties where the froſts had deſtroyed the crops, greatly increaſed, as is well remembered, the price of meal and oats all over Scotland. At that time the farmers of this pariſh had large quantities of both, eſpecially of ſeed corn, to ſell; and they cleared by it in thoſe two years, more than they ever did in any other two years.

Th3

The price of oat-meal was then 2 s. 6 d. the ſtone of 17½ pounds; higher than was ever known before or ſince. In this pariſh the heritors and farmers, by a voluntary contribution, collected into two ſtore-houſes, one at each extremity of the pariſh, all the meal they could, and diſtributed it among the poor labourers and artificers at 2 s. a ſtone, until it fell in the markets to that price; and by thus loſing 6 d. a ſtone in the meal which they ſold, they were the happy means of preſerving their poor pariſhioners from the general calamity of the country.

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF PORTPATRICK.

From Materials furniſhed by the Rev. Mr JOHN M'KENZIE *Miniſter of that Pariſh.*

Origin of the Name.

PORTPATRICK is called in the old charters Port Montgomery, from a noble family of that name, who at one time poſſeſſed large tracts of land on both ſides of the Iriſh Channel. They were ennobled by the title of Earl Mount-Alexander, which became extinct in 1758. They have now none of their Scots poſſeſſions remaining, but their repreſentatives ſtill inherit a conſiderable eſtate in Ireland.

It is probable that Portpatrick was the antient popular name of this place, and that the above family, when they became the proprietors, had attempted to ſet it aſide, and to ſubſtitute their own. This is one of the many monuments which prove, that in antient times there flouriſhed in Ireland a very eminent perſon of the name of Patrick. The veneration for this name muſt have been very great, ſince, even on this ſide of the water, it has prevailed over that of Montgomery.

Situation

Situation and Surface.—The situation of the town and parish is well known, being the neareſt point of the whole iſland of Great Britain to Ireland, and the beſt place for croſſing from the one kingdom to the other, the paſſage being only twenty miles over. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Stranraer and county of Wigton. The pariſh is of ſmall extent, being only about three Scots miles ſquare. The greater part is moor land, and it abounds with moſſes, not only in the lower grounds, but even on the tops of ſome of the higheſt mountains, where the moſs is frequently ſix or ſeven feet deep. The common fuel is peat, which is in ſuch quantities, that from thirty to forty carts, drawn by two horſes each, are regularly employed during the ſummer ſeaſon in bringing peats to the neighbouring towns of Portpatrick and Stranraer.

Town of Portpatrick.—The town is admirably ſituated. It enjoys a ſouthern expoſure, with a ſemicircle of hills on the north, which at the ſame time defends it from all the cold winds, and concentrates the rays of the ſun, ſo that few places in the ſame latitude can boaſt of a warmer climate. The common water which pours from the hills is excellent; and there is a mineral well, which has been found of ſervice in common, but particularly in ſtomachic diſorders. But above all, the ſea-bathing is admirable. The water is peculiarly ſtrong, and the tide riſes to ſuch a height cloſe to the ſhore, that a man, as well as a veſſel, may be inſtantly launched into any depth he pleaſes. In ſhort, no ſituation can be better calculated for a watering place, ſhould the rage for them continue to prevail as generally as at preſent.

The Harbour.—Formerly the harbour was a mere inlet between two ridges of rocks which advanced into the ſea; the effect of this was, that as there is a prodigious weight of waters

ters thrown in here when the wind blows upon the ſhore, and as there was no elbow to protect a veſſel, ſhe was always obliged, when ſhe took the harbour, to run aground; and the next operation, which neceſſarily followed, was, that the whole inhabitants, men and women, ran down, and by main force, dragged her up the beach, out of the reach of the waves, which would otherwiſe have daſhed her to pieces. This again had another effect, that none but flat bottomed veſſels could navigate here. It is but lately that two of theſe large flats, which had formerly been government packets, were to be ſeen on our ſhore, as monuments of antient barbarity.

Theſe were times of miſery, though the inhabitants were the happieſt of mortals. Their continued exertions in launching and drawing up their veſſels, excited wonderful ſpirits, which they knew how to recruit when exhauſted. Every day that a veſſel either ſailed or arrived was a feſtival.

There is now on the ſame ſpot one of the fineſt quays in Britain, with a reflecting light-houſe; and inſtead of a few flat-bottomed boats, above a dozen of trading veſſels, of from 40 to 60 tons, which ſail and return regularly, beſides a number of veſſels which occaſionally come from other ports. The larger veſſels are navigated at an average by ſix men each *. The light-houſe is particularly uſeful, and as there has

* At this, as well as at every ferry or paſſage of great reſort, there are a ſet of people who make themſelves uſeful to paſſengers, but who diſtinguiſh themſelves alſo by the impoſitions which they practice. There are about twenty perſons of that deſcription at Portpatrick, who are known by the name of the *Robbery*, from their ſuppoſed depradations on the public. They are abſolutely neceſſary at this port, and another body of the ſame ſort are equally ſerviceable on the other ſide of the Chán-

has long been another light-houſe on the Iriſh ſide, it renders the paſſage, even in the darkeſt night, convenient and comfortable, like a ſtreet well lighted on both ſides. The ſea riſes conſiderably along this coaſt. At low water you can walk round the point of the pier, which at high water is from ten to fifteen feet deep at the entrance. This being the narroweſt part of the Channel, has naturally the effect of accumulating the fluid upon the ſhores, when there is a ſwell from a ſtorm. What is farther deſerving of remark is, that at Donaghadee, which is almoſt directly oppoſite, the ſea ebbs and flows near an hour ſooner than at Portpatrick. There are alſo (which is ſtill more remarkable) ſome particular parts of the coaſt, well known to our ſeamen, more eſpecially one about two miles from the ſhore of Portpatrick, where the ſame fact is obſerved. Within three or four miles of the Iriſh ſhore, when the flood returns, there is a regular current which ſets off ſtrongly for the Mull of Galloway. It runs at the rate of ſeven knots an hour, and is ſo forcible, that when the wind oppoſes it, it exhibits, for a great way, the appearance of breakers. It is called the *Race of Strangers*, and is a very curious ſpectacle.

The Packet Boats to Ireland.—The mode of conveying the mail between the two kingdoms has undergone many changes. At firſt regular packet boats, with ſalaries, were eſtabliſhed. But before the quay was built, and, while the paſſage was attended with the difficulties above deſcribed, delays were frequent. The ſailors, eſpecially as their wages at all events were running on, often choſe to reſt themſelves. Eſtabliſhed packets were therefore aboliſhed, and a rule fixed, That

nel; but the manner in which their fees are exacted, particularly when they meet with any difficulty in the payment, is rather harſh and diſagreeable.

That whoever failed firſt ſhould have the mail, and a certain ſum for carrying it. This operated as a premium, and produced, for a long time, a very good effect. Soon after, however, as trade increaſed, the allowance made by government became of leſs conſequence. The packets were no longer the ſame object. It often happened, that a boat would not ſail with the mail, unleſs ſhe had ſomething elſe to carry. The mail coach alſo was eſtabliſhed, and the conveyance of travellers became an object of attention. The boats which carried cattle were peculiarly offenſive to paſſengers, not to mention that ſuch a cargo, with a gale of wind, was even dangerous. Paſſengers were therefore diſguſted or deterred, and were often induced to take another rout. It was one great branch of Mr Palmer's public ſpirited plans for promoting the commercial intercourſe of the Britiſh empire in general, to unite as much as poſſible the three great offices of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. His mail coaches regularly went from Dublin to Donaghadee, on the one ſide; and from London and Edinburgh to Portpatrick, on the other. Nothing, therefore, remained to complete the chain, but to obviate the inconveniencies of the ferry at Portpatrick; this he did by reſtoring eſtabliſhed packets. We have now four elegant veſſels, fitted up with every accommodation, whoſe only object is to forward the mail, and to convey travellers from the one iſland to the other.

The town, which is in a great meaſure ſupported by the concourſe of travellers, has in a peculiar manner felt the benefit of theſe improvements. Almoſt every houſe is an inn, where ſtrangers may find accommodation ſuited to their circumſtances. The money they leave is the great fund out of which the inhabitants pay their rents, and ſupport their families. The rapid change, however, which has taken place,

is greatly to be attributed to the late Sir James Hunter Blair, who happened to live at the critical period when the change began. He had ſagacity enough to foreſee the many advantages which muſt reſult from it, and forwarded the projected improvement as much as poſſible, by filling the harbour immediately with veſſels, and building almoſt entirely a new town, to accommodate the inhabitants and the travellers who paſſed through it. Such is the origin and the progreſs of improvement, which is generally owing, whether in a great capital like Edinburgh, or a provincial town like Portpatrick, to the ſpirit and exertions of particular men, who ſeem born for the purpoſe of rouſing the multitude from a ſtate of ignorance or torpor, from which they are too often unwilling to be emancipated.

Manufactures.—Manufactures have not yet made their way to Portpatrick. Ship-building is the only one as yet attempted. Under the auſpices of the active and public ſpirited citizen above mentioned, ſome companies of ſhipwrights have been formed, who are likely to carry on that branch ſucceſsfully. The depth of the water, and the ſhortneſs of the run, render it one of the moſt convenient launches that can be conceived.

Commerce.—Both our exports and imports have greatly increaſed. We export here goods from Paiſley, Manchester, &c.; and we import conſiderable quantities of the Iriſh linen manufacture. The inhabitants of Portpatrick, however, are generally only the carriers; the dealers are thoſe who, not being ſufficiently opulent to freight and load large ſhips, carry on a hauking buſineſs by land. They bring their goods in carts, and hire the Portpatrick veſſels to convey them from one ſhore to the other.

Iriſh

Iriſh Cattle.—But of all the articles of the commerce of Portpatrick, the import of black cattle and horſes from Ireland is by far the moſt intereſting. Formerly ſuch a commerce was prohibited, for the purpoſe of encouraging our own breed. The free importation was firſt permitted by 5th George III. cap. 10. § 1. for ſeven years, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament. It was afterwards continued by ſeveral temporary acts, and at laſt made perpetual, by 16th George III. cap. 8. From the firſt removal of the prohibition, there was a ſmall annual importation; but it was never carried on to any great extent till 1784, when it roſe ſuddenly without any cauſe that has yet been aſſigned for it. In that year there were imported, between the 5th of January 1784, and the 5th of January 1785, no leſs than 18,301 black cattle, and 1233 horſes. The importation of cattle and horſes, for the laſt five years, ending the 10th of October 1790, has varied in the following manner:

	Black Cattle.	Horſes.
From 10th Oct. 1785 to do. 1786	10,452	1256
——— 1787	7,007	1623
——— 1788	9,488	2777
——— 1789	13,321	2212
——— 1790	14,873	2402
Total in five years,	55,141	10,270

which, at an average, is about 11,000 head of cattle, and 2000 horſes *per annum*. Great as this importation has been, it has not as yet materially hurt the ſale, or diminiſhed the price of cattle, in the neighbourhood of Portpatrick. On the contrary, the demand for them has been rather on the increaſe. It is probable, however, that it would have been greater, had there been no import.

Beſides

Beſides the cattle imported here, there are alſo conſiderable numbers ſent from Belfaſt, Bangor, Newry, &c. directly to England. The Engliſh coal veſſels always take back cattle from Ireland when they have it in their power; but it is believed that the largeſt import is at Portpatrick. The great extent of ſea by any other paſſage, eſpecially in the winter ſeaſon, is much againſt the ſafe and ſucceſsful tranſportation of a cargo, ſo periſhable in itſelf, and liable to ſo many accidents.

This trade depends ſo much upon the quantity of graſs, of hay, and of turnips in England, and ſometimes even upon the proſpect of large crops of theſe articles, that there is much ſpeculation in it. Great gains and great loſſes are, therefore, ſudden and frequent. Hence the import is unequal. Some people ſuppoſe that the trade is favourable to ſmuggling, and hoſtile to the revenue. Others object to it, as in a peculiar manner detrimental to thoſe diſtricts in Scotland where black cattle are bred; and there ſeems to be rather a hardſhip in permitting ſuch numbers of cattle to be imported into North Britain, or even carried through it, in order to rival the productions of that very country, in the only market to which it has acceſs. Without entering, however, into theſe ſpeculations, it may be ſufficient at preſent to remark, that the import will probably diminiſh of itſelf, in conſequence of the rapid progreſs which Ireland is now making. The time is faſt approaching, when that kingdom will be in the ſame ſtate in which England is at preſent, having a market within itſelf ſufficient for the conſumption of its own productions. Perhaps that may ſoon be the caſe in regard to other commodities, beſides cattle. The Iriſh are rapidly improving in our manufactures, and we in theirs, at leaſt the cottons of Mancheſter and Glaſgow are likely ſoon to ſup-

ply

ply the place of the linens of Ireland; ſo that in time there will remain few articles to barter between the two kingdoms.

Fiſheries.—A very extenſive fiſhery might be eſtabliſhed at Portpatrick, particularly of cod; as the Channel is there the narroweſt, and the tide the ſtrongeſt, none but the healthieſt and beſt fiſh can live in it. The late Sir James Hunter Blair propoſed the eſtabliſhment of a fiſhing company, and, had he lived, he would probably have effected it. After his death, ſome fiſhermen came and planted their lines, but the rapidity of the tide repeatedly carried them away. Unfortunately they had not ſkill enough to increaſe their anchorage, nor ſagacity to diſcover, that two ſtone weight was heavier than one.

Population.—The return to the inquiries made by Dr. Webſter, regarding the population of the pariſh of Portpatrick, about forty years ago, was 551 ſouls. It has ſince conſiderably increaſed. It appears from an enumeration recently made, that there are in the country part of the pariſh, 484, and in the town, 512, ſouls, ſo that the whole population amounts to 996, being an addition, in that ſpace of time, of 445 ſouls.

The births, deaths, and marriages, as entered in the pariſh regiſter, for the laſt eight years, are as follows:

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1783	26	13	5
1784	25	18	9
1785	27	13	4
1786	31	16	9
1787	34	20	7

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1788	50	16	8
1789	37	30	4
1790	34	21	9

Rent of the Parish.—About the year 1761, the whole parish was valued, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the teind, or the value of the tythes, and it was then estimated at L. 472 Sterling. But as the increase has since been very considerable, the land rent alone is now about L. 1000 *per annum*; the town rent is at least L. 200 more; the dues of anchorage, and a duty of 2 d. *per* head on all cattle and horses exported or imported, payable to the Blair family, may also bring in about L. 120, so that the rent of the parish is rather better than L. 1300 a year.

Stipend.—The stipend has lately received an augmentation, and now yields about L. 80 a year, with the addition of a manse, and a glebe of about twelve or thirteen acres. The church was built *anno* 1629, and has lately been repaired. Sir John Hunter Blair is patron. At present there are but three heritors in the parish. There are seldom above twelve persons on the poor's list. The funds for the maintenance of the poor arise chiefly from weekly collections at the church door, and cannot be calculated at more than L. 10 *per annum*.

Language.—The names of places in this parish are said to be of Gaelic original, but no person living remembers the time when that language was spoken here. It is, however, more than probable, as Portpatrick was included in the antient

tient kingdom of Galloway, it was of conſequence inhabited by a tribe of the Celts.

Antiquities and Natural Curioſities.—The Caſtle of Dunſkey is the only remarkable building in the pariſh. It ſtands upon the brink of a tremendous precipice on the edge of the Iriſh ſea, and has been ſecured on the land ſide by a ditch and draw-bridge, the remains of which are ſtill viſible. It was certainly built as a place of ſecurity againſt ſudden incurſions in the days of violence, and in former times muſt have been eaſily defended. A cave in the neighbourhood of Dunſkey ought alſo to be mentioned, on account of the great veneration in which it is held by the people. At the change of the moon (which is ſtill conſidered with ſuperſtitious reverence), it is uſual to bring, even from a great diſtance, infirm perſons, and particularly ricketty children, whom they often ſuppoſe bewitched, to bathe in a ſtream which pours from the hill, and then dry them in the cave.

The *Cairnpat*, which riſes 800 feet above the level of the ſea, and is ſuppoſed to be the ſecond or third mountain in Galloway, merits alſo to be noticed. It bears all the marks of having been a military ſtation, being ſurrounded by three ſtone walls or intrenchments, with very ample ſpaces between them, and commands a proſpect of Loch Ryan and of Luce Bay, which form the peninſula in which Portpatrick is ſituated; England alſo, the Iſle of Man, Ireland, and part of the Highlands of Scotland, are ſeen riſing at a diſtance.

NUM-

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF HOUNAM,

IN ROXBURGH-SHIRE.

Origin of the Name.

THE parish of Hounam does not furnish much room for statistical investigation, and the few observations which occur respecting it, may be comprehended within narrow bounds. The origin of its name cannot now be ascertained. There are many places in the neighbourhood, on the borders both of England and Scotland, ending in *am*. It is believed that *ham*, in the Saxon language, signifies a habitation or village. Perhaps it was originally pronounced Hounaham, or the habitation of Houna, a name not unknown at the opposite extremity of the kingdom *.

Situation and Extent of the Parish.—The parish is situated in the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Jedburgh, and in the synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. It is of a circular form, surrounded by the parishes of Morbattle, Jedburgh, and Oxnam in Scotland, and bordering on the opposite side with the county of Northumberland, where the top of the Fells, a range of the Cheviot hills, is the march. The parish, from east to west, is about nine or ten miles long; and in general is about six miles broad. It may be

* One of the ferries between Caithness and Orkney, is at a place called Houna.

be called a hilly or mountainous diſtrict; but the hills are green, and rarely incumbered with rocks or covered with heath. The land is wet and ſpungy; the ſoil light, and better calculated for graſs than grain. The air is healthy, and the people long lived. Three perſons who had reſided in the pariſh from their youth, died lately, at the advanced age of 100.

Sheep.—The principal circumſtance for which this diſtrict is remarkable, is the Kale-water breed of ſheep, ſo called from a ſmall ſtream running through the middle of the pariſh. The ſheep are of a moderate ſize, and produce excellent wool. Their number uſually amounts to 12,000. Attempts have been made to improve the breed, by croſſing with a larger kind, but the experiments did not ſucceed. Though the ſheep became larger, and the quantity of the wool was increaſed, its quality was inferior. The moſt approved ſtock-farmers, however, have not the leaſt doubt that the wool might be brought to ſtill greater perfection by proper management, and by croſſing with ſheep nearly of the ſame ſize, but whoſe wool is the fineſt poſſible. The ſheep not only produce excellent wool, but, as the farmers term it, they *feed well*, come to a tolerable good ſize when fat, and are exquiſite mutton.

Productions.—The quantity of grain produced is very inconſiderable. Several of the farms in the higher part of the pariſh have ſcarcely been ploughed in the memory of man. The ſoil being light and ſandy, excellent turnips might be raiſed. Some have been produced in the pariſh weighing above 26 lbs. avoirdupoiſe. But the farmers have not as yet ſucceeded in raiſing this uſeful root, though they are extremely ſenſible of the great advantage that might be derived from

it, particularly in the spring. The farmers are in general too late in sowing them. Turnips cannot be raised to a great size in this part of the country, unless they are sown about the end of May or the beginning of June; but the farmers in the parish of Hounam are considerably later.

Rent of the Parish.—The land-rent is L. 2720. It has risen more than a third within these last fifteen years. The valued rent is L. 914:4:9. There are 8 heritors in the parish, 2 of whom are resident. There are only 14 farms, which, at an average, are from L. 250 to L. 300 *per annum*. The number of sheep on a farm is from 50 to 100 score.

State of the Church, &c.—The walls of the church were repaired about 40 years ago; but the building is still very bad, and worse than any place of worship in the neighbourhood. The Duke of Roxburgh is the patron. The present incumbent is Mr James Rutherford, who was admitted in March 1775. He is married; has a son and five daughters. The manse was built in 1776; but is placed too near the river, and consequently in a damp situation. The stipend, from the Revolution, amounted to L. 75 in money, and 21 bolls of victual. In consequence of a late process of augmentation, the victual stipend is now fixed at 63 bolls. There is no parochial fund for the poor, excepting the weekly collections, and quarterly assessments laid on the land-holders and their tenants, which yield, at an average, about L. 30 *per annum*.

Population.—The population of the parish has of late considerably diminished. The return to Dr Webster, about 40 years ago, was 632. The number of inhabitants is at present 365. Of these,

One

One hundred are below 10 years of age -	100
Forty-nine are above 10 and under 20 years -	49
Eighty are between 20 and 30 years - - -	80
One hundred between 30 and 50 years - -	100
Thirty-ſix above 50 years - - -	36
Total number	365

The number of burials do not exceed 4 each year. The births are from 10 to 12, excluſive of the ſectaries, who are indeed but few, and have a regiſter of baptiſms of their own. There is not even a village in the pariſh; a few houſes near the church not deſerving that name. The number of births, about a century ago, viz. from the year 1689 to the year 1707, ſeem, at an average, to have been 30 in the year. From the Union of the two kingdoms, to about the time of the laſt rebellion, the average number of births ſeem to be 20 a year. From that time, the births have gradually decreaſed to the preſent number of 10 or 12. The wages of men ſervants are between L. 7 and L. 8; of women about L. 4. Fifteen or twenty years ago, the wages of men ſervants were about L. 5, and of women ſcarcely L. 3. The wages of the ſhepherds, who conſtitute one half of the pariſh, conſiſt of a certain number of cows and ſheep to graſe on the farm to which they belong. The people enjoy a conſiderable degree of the comforts of life. They are chearful and contented; and there are but few poor.

The great decreaſe of inhabitants, within the laſt 40 years, is evidently occaſioned by the too general practice of letting the lands in great farms; but may be, in ſome meaſure, owing to the mode of agriculture almoſt univerſally adopted in the pariſh, (eſpecially ſince ſheep and wool brought ſo high

a price), of converting the arable into pasture land. The lands, 50 or 100 years ago, were parcelled out into at least four times the present number of farms. As late as the year 1750, five tenants, with large families, occupied a farm now rented by one tenant. There were also, about these times, several small, but proud, lairds in the parish. Their lands are now lost in the large farms, their names extinguished, and their mansions totally destroyed.

Antiquities.—A Roman road, or *street* as it is commonly called, which can be traced to the south as far as Boroughbridge in Yorkshire, runs through part of this parish; it afterwards passes by St Boswell's Green, where the fair is held, and then bends its course towards the Lothians. The only other antiquity worth mentioning, is an encampment at the top of Hounam Law, which is the highest hill on the border except the Cheviot. It was of considerable extent, and within these few years a large iron gate taken down from the top of the Law, was to be seen at Cessford Castle belonging to the Duke of Roxburgh. There are smaller encampments on the tops of the other hills in the neighbourhood, either made by the Romans when they invaded this country, or formed in the course of the many wars in which the Borderers of England and Scotland were antiently involved.

Fuel.—The principal disadvantage under which this parish labours, is the scarcity of fuel. The common people burn turf or peat. The resident heritors and the better sort of farmers bring coal from Northumberland, partly in carts, from a place called Etal, about 20 miles distant, and partly on horse-back, from Birdhopecraig. The latter species is abundant, and by far the most valuable; and it is a fortunate circumstance for the kingdom at large, that the best species of fuel should be found

found even in the interior parts of Northumberland, in ſuch conſiderable quantities: It could eaſily be conveyed to the ſea by a canal; and that beſt nurſery of Britiſh ſeamen, which depends on the ſupplying the great market of London with coals, may be thus preſerved, even though they fail in the neighbourhood of the coaſt.

NUM-

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHEAL.

From the Communications tranſmitted by the Rev. Dr BURGESS, *Miniſter of that Pariſh.*

Name, Extent, and Boundaries.

THE derivation is obviouſly from St Michael to whom the Church was dedicated. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Lochmaben, in the county and Synod of Dumfries. It conſiſts of the two pariſhes of Kirkmichael and Garrel, which were united about the year 1663, or 1664. The form of the united pariſhes is nearly elliptical; being about ten miles long and four broad in the middle. It is bounded on the ſouth-eaſt by the pariſh of Lochmaben, on the ſouth by Tinwald and Kirkmahoe, on the weſt by Cloſeburn, on the north-weſt by Kirkpatrick Juxta, and on the north-eaſt by the pariſh of Johnſton.

Surface.—The upper or north-weſt part of the pariſh is hilly, and chiefly covered with heath, except only a few ſpots of arable ground on the ſides of the river Ae, and the rivulet called Glenkill-burn. The lower or ſouth-eaſt part is in general plain, but interſperſed with ſeveral riſing grounds covered with

with heath, and ſome large peat moſſes which ſupply the inhabitants with fuel. There are now no open undivided commons; but there is, in the lower part of the pariſh, a conſiderable extent of ground ſtill lying unimproved. In the eſtate of Kirkmichael and the barony of Roſs, and in two other ſmall properties, beſides plantations, there may be 150, or nearly 200 acres of natural wood. There is much marſhy ground, which, if properly drained and cultivated, might turn to good account.

Soil and Produce.—The ſoil on the ſides of the river Ae in the weſt, ſouth, and ſouth-eaſt part of the pariſh is very fertile, producing wheat, oats, and barley in great plenty; the middle parts are moſtly dry and gravelly; but produce oats, barley, and peaſe tolerably well; the eaſt ſide, eſpecially by the ſide of the river Kinnell, is very fertile. In ordinary years, between 6 and 10 thouſand ſtones of oat meal are ſold out of the pariſh after the inhabitants have been ſupplied. In the remarkable years 1782 and 1783, the crops were not only ſufficient for the demands of the inhabitants, but allowed a conſiderable quantity to be ſold in the adjacent pariſhes. For the laſt thirty four years, no crop was ſo bad as not to furniſh the inhabitants with proviſion, and leave a great quantity for the market. The reaſon of this ſteady fertility ſeems to be the effects of the depth and moiſture of the ſoil, which circumſtances, though they may retard the harveſt eight or ten days later than in the pariſhes immediately ſouth of it, render the ground leſs liable to be hurt in dry ſeaſons. Flax, hemp, and graſs, are rarely ſown in the pariſh. The ſowing ſeaſon here uſually begins about the 10th of March; and in good years, the harveſt is concluded about the 1ſt week of October; but this year having been

been uncommonly wet, the harveſt was concluded only on the 12th of November.

Air, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—From the quality of the ſoil, the range of high mountains on the north-weſt, and rivers and burns which run on each ſide and acroſs the pariſh, the air is neceſſarily moiſt; but, from the rapidity of the rivers, the air is frequently changed, and ſeldom ſuffered to ſtagnate. The inhabitants are remarkably healthy. There have been no epidemical diſeaſes for theſe laſt 34 years, except the ſmall pox and meaſles, which have never been uncommonly mortal. Rheumatiſms are the moſt prevalent diſorders.

Population.—The number of inhabitants is 950, viz. 505 males, and 445 females. The proportion between batchelors and married men, including widowers, is as one to four nearly. There were no records prior to the year 1727, and the records which were kept from that time to 1759, are ſo inaccurate, that it is impoſſible to judge of population formerly. About 30 years ago, the number of inhabitants was about 730; and conſequently the increaſe ſince that period is 220 ſouls. The increaſe ſeems owing to the diviſion and cultivation of a very large common, and the improvement of other lands. The increaſe would probably have been much greater, had it not been for the practice of *leading* farms as it is called; that is, a farmer on one farm poſſeſſes at the ſame time another ſmaller farm, which is ſaid to be *led* along with the other. About ſixty years ago, the number of farms was above 20 more than at preſent; and, within theſe few years, ſeven conſiderable farms, that formerly had numerous families reſiding on them, are now *led* along with others, and are conſequently uninhabited.

The

The annual average number of births is 26; of burials 18 or 19; and of marriages nearly 6; and each marriage produces, at an average, 5 children. There are at preſent 60 perſons between 50 and 70 years old; and 25 between 70 and 100. One man in the pariſh is 103 years old. His account of himſelf is, that he was born in the *borrowing days* * of the year that King William came in, and that he was baptiſed in *bidlings*, (i. e. ſecretly), by a Preſbyterian miniſter the following ſummer, as the Curates were then in the kirks. Though he is now moſtly confined to bed, he retains his mental faculties very diſtinct; and three years ago he wrought at the harveſt in perfect health and ſpirits. A weaver who died a few years ago, remembered his being ſeveral times employed to ride King William's dragoon horſes to water, when they were going to Ireland before the battle at the Boyne.

Occupation and Diviſion of the Inhabitants.—There are 60 farmers; the average of perſons in each family is fluctuating and uncertain, being uſually more in ſummer than in winter; there are 4 blackſmiths; 4 carpenters; 3 millers; 4 ſhoemakers; 6 taylors; 16 weavers; 3 clogmakers; 3 little merchants; 1 ſurgeon, an old man. No nobility or gentry reſide in the pariſh. There are three ſmall villages in the pariſh; the largeſt conſiſting of 100 ſouls, and each of the other two of about 70 or 75. They live on three large corn farms, on which, with their own induſtry, they ſubſiſt pretty comfortably. The people, in general, are oeconomical and induſtrious. Very few of them have gone into either the army or navy theſe many years. They enjoy, in a reaſonable degree, the comforts and advantages of ſociety, and

* That is, on one of the three laſt days of March 1688.

seem to live contented. They are in general charitably disposed. The number of Seceders, Cameronians, and Relief people, young and old, are about 50. All the rest are of the Established Church. There are no Catholics nor Episcopalians.

Rent of Lands.—The land rent of the parish amounts to about L. 2300; and, if to this be added the interest, at 10 *per cent.* on L. 2000 of grassums, the whole will amount to about L. 2500. The valued rent is 4315 merks Scots.

Church.—The living, or stipend, is L. 55 : 11 : 1$\frac{1}{9}$, with L. 3 : 17 : 9$\frac{1}{9}$, for defraying the expences of the sacrament. The glebe consists of about 14 acres of high lying land, which, with the manse and garden, could not be rated at above L. 10 a year. The Duke of Queensberry is the patron of the old parish of Kirkmichael, by a charter from the crown; but, as the patronage of the old parish of Garrell is not in that charter, and as Garrell was a mensal church of the Archbishopric of Glasgow, the crown claims the right of being vice-patron of the united parish. Dr Burgess, the present incumbent, was presented to the charge in 1759; he is now a widower, with an only daughter. The two parishes were united in 1660, but not without some difficulty on the part of the parishioners of Garrell.

The church of Garrell was built in 1617; but Kirkmichael becoming the place of worship after the union of the two parishes, it was suffered to fall to ruin. The church of Kirkmichael was partly rebuilt, and somewhat enlarged, in 1729, and covered with slates in place of heath, with which it had been formerly thatched. It was repaired again, and considerably enlarged, by a late decreet of the Court of Session,

ſion, and the church-yard ſurrounded with a good ſtone and lime wall, and coped with free ſtone. The manſe was partly new built, and partly enlarged, in 1729, and has had two or three repairs ſince that time; but it is ſtill rather a cold uncomfortable dwelling. The number of heritors is 8; of whom only 2, of ſmall property, reſide in the pariſh.

State of the Poor.—The poor receiving alms are only 5; who are ſupported, partly, by weekly collections, which, with ſmall fines exacted from delinquents, and dues paid for marriages and baptiſms out of the church, amount, annually, to L. 14 or L. 15, and partly by alms, in meal and other victuals, given them from houſe to houſe, or ſent to them when unable to go about the pariſh. There are no legacies or mortifications, nor as yet is there any need of them.

In extraordinary caſes of diſtreſs, we have a cuſtom which deſerves to be taken notice of in a paper of this kind; and that is, when any of the lower people happen to be reduced by ſickneſs, loſſes, or misfortunes of any kind, a friend is ſent to as many of their neighbours as they think needful, to invite them to what they call a *drinking*. This drinking conſiſts in a little ſmall beer, with a bit of bread and cheeſe, and ſometimes a ſmall glaſs of brandy or whiſky, previouſly provided by the needy perſons, or their friends. The gueſts convene at the time appointed, and, after collecting a ſhilling a-piece, and ſometimes more, they divert themſelves for about a couple of hours, with muſic and dancing, and then go home. Such as cannot attend themſelves, uſually ſend their charitable contribution by any neighbour that chooſes to go. Theſe meetings ſometimes produce 5, 6, or 7 pounds, to the needy perſon or family.

Woods.

Woods.—As to timber, beſides a pretty large wood of forreſt trees, with extenſive plantations of common firs, pitch firs, ſilver firs, laburnums, beeches, oaks, planes, limes, &c. on the eſtate of Kirkmichael, there are ſeveral of the rarer ſpecies of indigenous trees, the Prunus padus, (birds cherry), Viburnum opulus, (water elder), honeyſuckles, bullaces, and mountain aſhes.

In the barony of Roſs there was, till within theſe laſt ſeven years, an extenſive wood, called Knockwood, conſiſting almoſt wholly of excellent oaks, which was ſold by the preſent proprietor for about 800 guineas; and, unfortunately, has not ſince been properly fenced from the ſheep and cattle in the neighbourhood.

As to rare plants, of the leſs uſeful kinds, there are, in the pariſh, the Pyrola rotundifolia, (the winter green), Andromeda polifolia, (the marſh ciſtus, or wild roſemary), the Lichen ventoſus, (or ſtorm liverwort), Lichen venoſus, (or veined liverwort), Lichen burgenſii, (or crowned liverwort), with ſeveral others.

The number of black cattle, on an average, are eſtimated at between 1000 and 1200; ſheep from 8000 to 10,000; and horſes at above 100. The wild quadrupeds are foxes, otters, badgers, hares, wild cats, polecats, ermines, and weaſels. As the eſtate of Kirkmichael abounds both with natural wood and planting, there is, of courſe, a conſiderable variety of birds. Beſides black cocks, moor-fowl, partridges, plovers, wild ducks, teals, and ſnipes, there is great plenty of the rarer ſpecies of birds, the land and the water rails, the quail, the miſſel thruſh, the pine and the common bullfinch, the wryneck, the golden-creſted and the willow wrens,

wrens, the redſtart, the creeper, the flycatcher; with the dun, the grey, the barn, and the horned owls.

Of migratory birds, there are the cuckow, the goatſucker, the ſwift, the houſe and window ſwallow, the ſand martin or river ſwallow, the curlew, called here the *whaup*, the lapwing, plover, or tewit, the king's fiſher, the ſea lark, the ſandpiper, the greater and leſſer terns or ſea ſwallows; with gulls, mews, ſhelldrakes, divers, &c.

The ſand martin uſually appears here about the middle, or towards the end of March, and departs about the 1ſt of September; the cuckow about the 20th of April, and departs about the 1ſt of Auguſt; the curlew and lapwing about the middle of March, and depart about the middle of Auguſt; the houſe and window ſwallows about the 20th of April, and depart from the 4th to the 30th of September; the ſwift and goatſucker arrive about the commencement of continued daylight, (*i. e.* here, about the 10th of May), and depart about the end of it, in the ſecond week of Auguſt; the king's fiſher comes up the rivers about Chriſtmas, and uſually ſtays about three or four weeks; the ſandpiper, ſea lark, and mew, viſit and ſtay through the whole of the breeding ſeaſon; indeed, the gull, mew, and ſheldrake, are often here in the winter, when the weather is mild.

With regard to mineral ſprings;—there are ſeveral veins of iron ſtone and ocher in every quarter of the pariſh, and conſequently many ſprings of chalybeate water; but none of a ſtrength ſo remarkable as to be any way noticed or frequented. There are two lochs, or lakes, in the pariſh, viz. one towards the head, of about two or three acres in extent, apparently very deep, but without fiſh of any ſort; and another

other near the foot, containing ten or twelve acres, in which there are a great number of pike and eel, but not ſo numerous as to ſerve the neighbouring inhabitants as an article of food.

Price of Proviſions.—About 40 or 45 years ago, a beef cow, which at preſent coſts from L. 5. to L. 6. and ſometimes more, could have been purchaſed for L. 2 : 2 : 0, or L. 2 : 10 : 0, at the utmoſt. A fat ewe or wedder, that ſells now at 12 s. or 14 s. could have been bought then for 5 s. or 6 s.; and veal and lamb in proportion. Pork was little uſed here till within theſe laſt 20 or 30 years; it is now very generally eaten, and ſells at 3 d. 3½ d. and 4 d. the pound, according to its goodneſs, and the quantity that happens to be in the market. Geeſe were then to be had at 8 d. or 9 d. a-piece; ducks at 3 d. or 4 d.; hens at 4 d.; chickens at 1½ d. and 2 d.; butter at 4 d. the pound, equal to 24 ounces averdupois weight; cheeſe at 2 d. per pound; oats from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. the Dumfries peck, which is equal to the Wincheſter buſhel; bear and barley from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. Wheat was ſeldom ſown here at that period. At preſent, all theſe prices are greatly increaſed, and ſome of them conſiderably more than doubled.

Price of Labour.—The general wages for day labourers in huſbandry, and other work, is 8 d. with victuals, or 1 s. without them; carpenters, bricklayers, and maſons, have uſually 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.; and taylors 8 d. and their victuals. In general, the wages now paid to workmen of every deſcription are double what they were 20 or 30 years ago. The wages of male ſervants, about 30 years ago, were from L. 3 to L. 4 a year; at preſent they are between L. 7 and L. 8, and ſome ſtill higher: Maid ſervants, at the above period, had from

from L. 1 : 15 : 0 to L. 2 : 5 : 0 a year; they now get from L. 2 : 10 : 0 to L. 4 : 10 : 0.

Antiquities.—There are ſeveral indiſtinct remains of antient fortifications, but no traditions about any other than a ſmall fort in the Knock Wood, called Wallace's Houſe, ſaid to have been thrown up by Sir William Wallace, after he had ſlain Sir Hugh of Moreland and five of his men, at a place ſtill named, from that event, the *ſax corſes*, *i. e.* the ſix corpſes; and where there are two or three large ſtones, which ſeem to have been ſet up in remembrance of ſome ſuch tranſaction.

There are ſome ſmall tumuli, or cairns; but none of them have been opened, nor have their contents been examined.

There are ſeveral barrows, or burrans, as they are called here. They ſeem to have been intended for folding cattle at night: And it is obſervable, that, when one of theſe barrows is on one farm, there is always one oppoſite to, and within call of it, upon another. This has probably been done with an intention, that, in caſe of any inroad from the Engliſh Border, whoever of the herds or keepers firſt obſerved the enemy, might give notice to, and be ready to aſſiſt, the other, either to defend, or carry off the cattle to places of greater ſafety.

The only Roman works in the pariſh are, a branch of the great road that led from Netherby in Cumberland to the chain of forts built by Lollius Urbicus, between the Forth and the Clyde, that can ſtill be traced through a moſs, and ſeems to have terminated at a caſtellum, which is now the miniſter's garden, and of which two ſides remain ſtill very diſtinct.

About

About six years ago, there was found, in a small piece of peat moss, near the line of the road above mentioned, a pretty large pot, of a sort of base copper, and a decanter of the same metal, of the shape and size of our white stone quart decanters, with three feet, about 1½ inch long. They were both sent by Dr Burgess to the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, and are in their museum. They were thought to be Roman. They might have been thrown into the place where they were found when the Romans left the castellum, perhaps pursued by the natives, and obliged to abandon some of their heavy baggage, to expedite their flight.

NUM-

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF SPROUSTON.

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT TURNBULL.

Situation and Surface.

THIS pariſh is ſituated in the county of Tiviotdale, preſbytery of Kelſo, and ſynod of Merſe and Tiviotdale. It is about ſix Engliſh miles long, and four broad; being bounded by the pariſh of Carham, in England, and by Yetholm, Linton, Kelſo, Ednam, and Eccles, in Scotland. That part of it which lies by the ſide of the Tweed is flat, and liable to be overflowed; and the corn is frequently ſwept off the ground. The ſouthern part of the pariſh is higher ground, though not hilly. The ſoil, by the ſide of the Tweed, is excellent, and very fertile: No part of the pariſh, however, is barren.

Cultivation, Produce, and Rent.—Corn of all kinds, clover, rye-graſs, flax, turnip, cabbage, and moſt ſorts of garden vegetables, are raiſed in this pariſh. Oxen and ſheep are fed on turnip with conſiderable profit. The magnitude of farms, which of late have been increaſing, is reputed a grievance. A farm was lately let at L. 1 : 7 : 0 per acre. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 13,263 : 6 : 8 Scots; the real rent is about L. 4350 Sterling. There are four poſſeſſors of landed property; but

none of them reſide here. Agriculture is greatly improved. More corn is raiſed, and more cattle and ſheep are fed for the market, than formerly.

Church and Stipend.—The church and manſe were built about ten years ago. The ſtipend, including the glebe, may be valued at L. 120. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron.

Population.—The population, as is thought, has not varied for theſe forty years paſt. There are many perſons between 70 and 100 years of age. The number of ſouls in the pariſh is ſuppoſed to be about 1000. It is probable that the population has diminiſhed conſiderably ſince the year 1714; and the union of farms is perhaps the cauſe of this diminution. The annual average of births, from 1714 to 1750, is 37; from 1750 to 1790, is 30. The moſt numerous claſs of artificers are weavers; there are 30 in the village of Sprouſton; 8 maſons, and 4 carpenters. There are about 60 ſeceders in the pariſh.

Poor.—The annual average of the poor, from 1737 to 1758, is 33; and from 1758 to 1790, is 18. The average of the monthly diſtributions to them, during the firſt of theſe periods, (from 1737 to 1758) is L. 3 : 18 : 10; and the average during the laſt is L. 3 : 19 : 1. The oldeſt records that could be found of the poors rates, begin in the year 1737. The mode of providing for the poor in the ſhire of Tiviotdale, and the only legal mode, though not univerſally obſerved, in Scotland, is this: The heritors, with the miniſter and elders, have the power of making up a liſt of the poor, and aſſeſſing for their monthly maintenance. The aſſeſſment continues ſix months; the heritors paying the one half, and the tenants the other, according to their reſpective valued rents.

Perſons

Perſons who become objects of charity, from ſickneſs, or other cauſes, are relieved by the ſeſſion out of the weekly collections. The poor live in their own houſes. The effects of all the poor enrolled are inventoried, and ſold at their deceaſe, which is a check againſt impoſitions.

Price of Proviſions and Labour.—The price of all kinds of proviſions, eſpecially of oatmeal, has greatly increaſed; and, if potatoes had not been introduced, the price of oatmeal muſt have been ſtill higher. There is a conſiderable advance in the wages of all ſervants. Men, during harveſt, receive L. 1 : 4 : 0, and women L. 1, with diet; a man hired for a day 1 s.; and a woman 10 d. Forty years ago, a man's wages, in harveſt, was only 8 d. and a woman's 6 d. a-day. A cottage muſt give the farmer one reaper. A labourer gets 1 s. a-day in ſummer, and 10 d. in winter. His wages are ſufficient to enable him to bring up a family. Taylors wages are lately advanced from 4 d. to 6 d. and 8 d. a-day.

Fiſh.—The Tweed, which runs along the north ſide of this pariſh, abounds with ſalmon. They ſell high in the ſpring, the greateſt part of them being ſent, by Berwick, to London; but the prices vary conſiderably; and, in ſummer, they are tolerably cheap. There is a project for carrying a canal, along the Tweed, from Berwick to Kelſo, or even higher.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Sea fowls appear here in great numbers in the ſpring, about ſeed-time; they follow the plough, and are thence called *ſeed-birds.* Coal, the only fuel uſed here, is brought from England. The roads are bad, owing, probably, to the ſtatute labour being commuted. It is the general opinion that turnpikes have improved the coun-

tr

try. Only one ſuicide has been committed in the courſe of more than forty years. The people, in general, are contented and induſtrious; their condition, however, would be meliorated, if they had better houſes: Their manners and cuſtoms remain the ſame as formerly; but dreſs, and the mode of living, are much improved.

NUM-

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF LONGFORMACUS.

By the Rev. Mr SELBY ORD.

Name, Situation, and Surface.

IT is uncertain whence the name of this parish is derived. It is in the shire of Berwick, presbytery of Dunse, and synod of Kelso. It is twelve miles long and six broad; surrounded by the parishes of Dunse, Langton, Greenlaw, Westruther, Cranshaws, and Abbey St Bethun's. It is quite hilly; being in the midst of that ridge of hills which divides the flat and rich lands of East Lothian from the beautiful, well inclosed, and highly cultivated plains of Berwickshire. The greatest part of the surface is covered with heath, eaten by small black faced sheep, which, when removed to good pastures, may be so fattened as to weigh 10 or 12 pounds the quarter.

Cultivation and Produce.—The lands near the rivers Whitadder and Dye, have been improved by lime brought from East Lothian at the distance of 17 miles, and have been made to raise oats, barley, pease, rye-grass, red and white clover, and turnip. But the farmers are prevented from great exertions by the high rents, the great expence of manure, the badness of the roads, and the distance of markets. The increase

creaſe of corn is from two, or even one, to ſix. The preſent land rent amounts to L. 1700 a-year. There are 9 heritors. The patron of the pariſh, Mr Home, is the only reſiding one.

Climate and Population.—The air is dry, cold, and piercing. The only diſeaſes are rheumatiſms and cutaneous diſorders, which ſeem to be occaſioned by poor food, damp houſes, and want of cleanlineſs. Population, owing to large farms, to the tenants reſiding at a diſtance, and to part of the lands being turned entirely into paſture for ſheep, is on the decreaſe. The number of ſouls is 452; of families, 100; of perſons from 16 to 60 years of age, 112. The number of births, in theſe laſt ſix years, is 47; of marriages, 21; of deaths, 27. Many people born in this pariſh being obliged to ſeek employment in other pariſhes, all who die in the pariſh not being buried in it, and thoſe only regiſtered that are buried here, the deaths bear but a ſmall proportion to the births.

Poor, and Wages.—There are 5 families, conſiſting of 13 perſons, upon the poors roll. They receive L. 15 *per annum*; which is raiſed by weekly collections at the church, and occaſional ceſs upon the lands. A labourer's wages is 1 s. a-day; maſons and joiners, 1 s.; taylors, 6 d. and their meals. Houſehold men ſervants wages are 6 or 7 pounds *per annum*, and women, 3 and 4 pounds.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The ſtipend of this pariſh is L. 100. There are about 70 horſes, 500 ſcore of ſheep, and 200 head of cattle. There are favourable appearances of copper ore. Attempts were made to work it a few years ago; but patience and perſeverance were wanting. Some cart loads of ore were dug up in making a road: The preſent miniſter

miniſter ſmelted ſome of it, and found it very rich. There are two hills of a beautiful ſhape, known by the name of the *Dirrington Laws*. There is a heap of ſtones at a place called *Byrecleugh*, 80 yards long, 25 broad, and 6 high. They were collected, probably, by ſome army, to perpetuate a victory, or ſome other remarkable event. The moſſes and moors in the pariſh ſupply the inhabitants with fuel; but ſome coal is brought from a diſtance. The people, accuſtomed to the paſtoral life in their early years, are rather inclined to indolence and eaſe. Their condition might be improved by the introduction of manufactures.

NUM-

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF LAUDER.

By the Rev. Dr JAMES FORD.

Name, Situation, and Surface.

THE name of Lauder seems to be of Celtic original, derived from the word *lade*, which signifies the passage, or course, and sometimes the mouth, of a river; and it is literally applicable to the situation. It is situated in the highest part of the Merse, or Berwickshire. It extends about eight miles from north to south; but the bulk of the parish is contained in four miles, upon the strath of Lauder water. It is bounded by the parishes of Channelkirk, Stow, Melrose, Earlston, Legerwood, and Westruther. The soil is rather light and sandy. It is in general fertile; and, of late, has been highly cultivated. The ground rises gradually from the river, on each side, to hills of a moderate height, and mostly green. They are covered with a mixture of heath and juniper, which makes excellent sheep pasture.

Cultivation, Produce, Farms, &c.—There may be about nine square miles in corn and hay grass. Sown grass, for pasture and for hay, is much cultivated. The hay sells from 4 d. to 7 d. per stone, according to the demand. Good crops of wheat have been produced; but this grain is thought to be

too

too exhauſting for the ſoil. Excellent oats and barley are raiſed, and exported weekly to Dalkieth and Edinburgh, eſpecially oats and oatmeal. The ſoil produces flax in great perfection; but, at preſent, it is only cultivated for the uſe of the inhabitants. Turnip and potatoes are reared to a great extent; and ſheep and oxen fed here with much advantage. The average rent of farms is from L. 50 to L. 150 *per annum*. In the neighbourhood of Lauder, the land lets from 20 to 40 ſhillings per acre; but the average rent of arable land is from 5 to 20 ſhillings per acre. Since the late improvements in huſbandry commenced, ſome farms have been divided into two or three, and ſome ſmaller ones have been united, according to the ſkill or ability of the tenant. There is little land incloſed, except in the neighbourhood of Lord Lauderdale's houſe. All are convinced of the advantages of this practice; and it will probably advance with conſiderable rapidity. There was formerly abundance of natural wood, eſpecially on the low grounds, and by the ſide of the river. It was long ago wed out; but the proprietors are beginning to plant again.

Minerals, &c.—There are ſome copper mines, but, it is ſuppoſed, not ſufficiently rich to defray the expence of working. Moor-ſtone is every where to be met with. It is uſed for incloſing, and is very proper for the purpoſe, being large and flat. The ſlate found here is of an inferior quality. Adder-ſtones, arrow points of flint, commonly called *elf* or *fairy ſtones*, are to be ſeen here; and, in the neighbourhood, ſtones of fanciful ſhapes, as of ſnails, worms, and other animals. They are found after heavy rains, by which they are waſhed out of their beds.

Sheep.—The number of ſheep produced and fed in this pa-

riſh, is ſuppoſed to amount to 10,000. The breed is, of late, conſiderably improved. Taking the produce of this, and of the neighbouring pariſhes, into conſideration, the town of Lauder ſeems to be one of the beſt ſituated places in Scotland for the eſtabliſhment of a woolen manufacture. Turnips are much cultivated for feeding ſheep; but, ſince the late game act, the hares have become ſo numerous as greatly to injure the crops of that valuable article.

Population.—There are at preſent about 2000 ſouls in the pariſh. Its population has been increaſing, particularly ſince an eaſy communication was opened between different parts of the country by means of turnpike roads. 1500 of the inhabitants are above 10 years of age. About 1000 of theſe reſide in the country part of the pariſh, and the remainder in the borough of Lauder. The annual average of marriages is about 8 or 10; that of births and deaths about 30. Each marriage, at an average, produces 5 children. The people, in general, live long: Many have ſurvived 90, and ſome even 100, during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter. Some are below middle ſtature, many above it; and the ſize of not a few is upwards of ſix feet. The people are, generally, ſtrong and healthy. There are about 40 farmers in the pariſh, and a conſiderable number of artiſts in the borough and country. There is in this pariſh a ſeceding miniſter; though the number of ſeceders is but ſmall. There are two writers, and two ſurgeons. As this pariſh, when Dr Webſter made his inquiry, contained only 1714 ſouls, it has increaſed, within 40 years, about 300 in population.

Church, and Stipend.—The church of Lauder was originally a chapel of eaſe to Channel-kirk, or Childrens Kirk, being dedicated to the holy Innocents. At the Reformation, Lauder

ter was made a parochial charge. At firſt, the church ſtood on the north ſide of the town, fronting Lauder fort; and it was in this old church that the Scotch nobility were aſſembled, when they determined to make a priſoner of James III.; and the houſe in which he was ſeized is ſtill ſtanding. The ſtipend, including the glebe, is between L. 90 and L. 100 *per annum*; half money, half victual.

Poor.—The number of poor in this pariſh is about 30. Their maintenance amounts to about L. 80 *per annum*; ariſing from aſſeſſments, Sunday's collections, and dues for lending the pall, called in Scotland the *mort-cloth*.

Wages.—The wages of a country ſervant is from 5 to 7 pounds *per annum*; of labourers from 9 d. to 1 s. a-day; of carpenters, maſons, and gardeners, about 1 s. 3 d. The price of every kind of labour is greatly increaſed; reapers wages are almoſt doubled. The wages of women ſervants have advanced from 20 to 40 ſhillings *per annum*; and of ſuch as work at turnips, and milk ewes, to L. 3 per half year.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is pure and healthy; and this place has been often called the Scotch *Montpelier*. The land rent of the pariſh may be about L. 6000 Sterling. There are ſix heritors of rank, only one of whom reſides in the pariſh. The number of feuers, or ſmaller poſſeſſors of land, is conſiderable. There are about 100 ploughs, and many of them of modern conſtruction.

For 30 years paſt, much improvement in education, manners, and the mode of living, as well as in ſeveral other particulars, has been introduced into this part of the country. In a courſe of about 10 miles, between Lauder and Tweed, the river

river turns between 20 and 30 mills, some of which have been lately erected for the purpose of grinding barley and wheat. There are now turnpike, parochial roads, and bridges made, and kept in good repair, by the toll-bar money, and statute-labour commuted into money according to the number of servants and horses. The turnpike roads have been the cause of many other improvements. Coal, lime, and the establishment of a woolen manufacture, are wanting. The people are generally active and spirited, and have always been ready to engage in labour of any kind: Many of them are, at present, both in the army and navy. The poor, in general, consider themselves able to bring up a family with an income of about L. 12 Sterling.

In 1782, and 1783, the situation of the inhabitants was truly deplorable. It was the end of December before the harvest was finished, after a great part of the crop was destroyed by frost and snow. None of the farmers could pay their rent; some of them lost from L. 200 to L. 500 Sterling. The country, however, was greatly relieved by the importation of white pease from America. Many found great advantage in feeding their cattle with furze or whins, beat into a mash. The poor were relieved by the expenditure of the public funds, which supplied them with grain at a moderate price. There were likewise several liberal contributions for this purpose. But the situation of this part of the country, and, it is believed, of all the south of Scotland, was still worse in 1766: In consequence of a parching drought during the whole summer, two thirds of the cattle were slaughtered at Martinmas, and sold at 3 farthings a pound. Many of those that remained died at the stall in the subsequent spring, after having consumed all the straw that could be provided for them. Bear straw sold at 1 s. 6 d. per threave.

Prior

Prior to that period, not above four or five ſmall beeves were killed in Lauder market at Martinmas Since that time, in conſequence of the cultivation of turnip and graſs, there has been plenty of the beſt beef and mutton through the whole year.

Peat and turf were formerly uſed here for fuel; but, ſince the turnpike roads were made, coal, though tranſported from the diſtance of 15 miles, is uſed for that purpoſe both in town and country. The farmers find it moſt for their advantage to bring home lime in the ſummer ſeaſon, and coal when returning from Edinburgh or Dalkieth markets. Theſe two, with Kelſo and Haddington, are the markets neareſt this pariſh.

Antiquities.—A conſiderable quantity of Spaniſh, Scotch, and Engliſh coins, have been dug up. The antiquity of the firſt extends no farther than the age of Eliſabeth. The Scotch and Engliſh belong to the age of Edward Longſhanks, and Alexander I. of Scotland; and ſome of them are of a later date. The miniſter of Lauder is in poſſeſſion of ſome of theſe coins, and alſo of ſeveral Roman coins, whoſe inſcriptions are, *Lucius Flaminius*, *Julius Caeſar*, *&c.* There are many Pictiſh and Scotch encampments in this pariſh and the neighbourhood. All of them are of a round or oval figure, and are called *rings* by the common people. The Roman encampments were ſquare or rectangular; but none of them are to be ſeen in this part of the country. The largeſt Scotch or Pictiſh encampment in the pariſh is on Tollis-hill, or Tullius-hill. It is on the road between Lauder and Haddington, and is ſuppoſed to have got its name from a Roman army paſſing through this country, and commanded by a Tullius. Many tumuli are to be ſeen in Lauder moor, on the old

old road to Melrose, where it is probable some battles have been fought, as fragments of swords, bows, and arrows, are found there; but no record or tradition is known concerning them. The arrows were pointed with flint-stone, tapering from the juncture, about an inch long.

Lauder Fort.—Towards the north of the tower of Lauder, by the river side, stands Lauder fort. This fabric is near 500 years old. It was built by Edward Longshanks, who had over-run Scotland. It was rebuilt, and converted into a dwelling-house, by the Duke of Lauderdale, in the end of the last century. There are some noble apartments in it, and rich stucco work, according to the taste of that age. One of the old apartments is preserved as a curiosity.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF AYTON.

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE HOME.

Name, Situation, &c.

THE parish of Ayton seems to take its name from the water of Eye. It lies in the county of Berwick, presbytery of Chirnside, and synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. The parishes by which it is bounded are Eyemouth and Coldingham on the north, Chirnside on the west, Foulden and Mordington on the south, and by the sea on the east. The parish is about 4¼ miles long, and 4 broad: It was once of larger extent, when Lammerton, Ross, and Shiels belonged to it. The soil is in general fertile, and particularly adapted for the turnip husbandry. There is about 2 miles extent of sea coast. The shore is high and rocky. The hills in this parish lie chiefly in the southern extremity. The soil of some of them, especially of a ridge of no very considerable height, is in general well adapted for producing corn or grass.

Cultivation and Produce.—Agriculture has undergone a great change in the course of a very few years. Instead of five or six successive white crops, the farmers will seldom allow two to follow each other; for they derive considerable advantage from introducing a green one, and occasionally fallow, between

tween the white crops. The experience of this neighbourhood has rather a tendency to prove, that money expended in the cultivation of moor lands has seldom turned to a good account, and that planting is the best mode of improvement; the effects of water, however, has not been tried. Lime operates at first, but loses its effect as a stimulus upon a second trial. Though the appearance of moor lands may be changed by culture and artificial grasses, they will not feed well; and, when wet or cold, are believed to lay the foundation of the *rot* in sheep, a distemper which proves extremely fatal.

Two horses only, are at present used in the plough here, instead of four oxen and two horses, which was formerly the practice. They will perform the same quantity of labour equally well, and in much shorter time. The English plough is chiefly used in this parish The lands produce most of the common vegetables, plants, and trees. Artificial grasses are much used. Of late the farmers here directed their attention, and with great success, to stock. They find that the lands in grass make a profitable return. By feeding, too, the ground is enriched for future crops. The advantage of feeding sheep on the lands, in the proper season, with turnip, is sensibly felt; and this practice is supposed to be preferable to a summer fallowing; and is, at the same time, no loss to the farmer.

Plantations of all kinds of trees are much encouraged by the present proprietor of the estate of Ayton, which contributes greatly to enrich and beautify the country. His lands some years ago were all *run-rig* *, as was very much the case, particularly

* A common field, in which the different farmers had different ridges alloted them in different years, according to the nature of their crops.

particularly upon the boarders, with a view to engage the people to a mutual defence and protection of their property, in times of turbulence and hoſtility. They are now divided, have convenient farm-houſes, and are highly improved. Harveſts are rather early here than late. The greateſt part of the lands in this pariſh is incloſed with hedges. Fences of this kind are recommended both by their beauty and utility. The riſe of rent ſeems to have operated here as a ſpur to exertion and improvement in agriculture. The farms have rather decreaſed in number. Some of them, though but few, extend to 500 or 600 acres.

Air and Diſtempers.—The air is dry and ſalubrious. The fogs ariſing from the ſea ſeldom penetrate above a mile from the ſhore. The ague was very common prior to the improvements and incloſing of lands; but ſince that time this diſorder has ſcarcely been known here, except during the laſt very open winter.

Horſes, Sheep, &c.—The horſes bred and uſed here are ſlender; but they are very active, and able to undergo much fatigue: They have advanced much in value. The breed of ſheep is both good and large; their weight, at an average, is about 18 or 20 lbs. *per* quarter. Four of their fleeces yield a ſtone of wool. Five ſheep may be maintained upon an acre of ſome of the beſt lands. The number of ſheep in this pariſh, till within theſe ten or twelve years paſt, was ſmall. Great advantage ariſes from the large breed lately introduced: Beſides yielding more wool, they are fit for the market in two years time; while ſheep of the ſmaller ſize require to be kept three years before they are ready for the market. The wool of the large ſheep is, without doubt, of a coarſer quality; but this diſadvantage is

more than compenſated by the quantity. On rich lands even the ſmall kind of ſheep would increaſe in ſize, and their wool become more plentiful, though of an inferior quality. The wool ſells from 12s. to 15s. *per* ſtone. Oxen here are commonly fed till they weigh from 60 to 100 ſtone.

Fiſh.—The water of Eye contains good trouts, but not in any quantity. Cod, ling, haddocks, whitings, flounders, hollyback, mackrell, and other kinds of fiſh, are caught here in their ſeaſons. Lobſters yield conſiderable profit; they are chiefly bought up for the London market. Herrings have been got in great quantities; but they, as well as the other kinds of white fiſh, have failed much for theſe two years paſt. The fiſhermen have lately diſcovered the method of catching turbot, which brings a good price.

Population.—In 1741 the village of Ayton ſeems to have contained about 320 ſouls, and the country part of the pariſh about the ſame number. In 1773 the village contained about 360 ſouls: The numbers in the country part were alſo increaſed. In 1780 the number of the inhabitants amounted to 1146, of which 420 were in the village, and 726 in the country part of the pariſh. In the preſent year, 1790, the number amounted to 1245. The village contains 147 families; there are 202 males and 229 females above ten years of age, and 51 males and 47 females below 10 years of age. The country part of the pariſh contains 136 families, which conſiſt of 263 males and 310 females above 10, and 53 males and 90 females below 10. From this ſtatement it may be remarked, that during the laſt ten years the population of the village has received an addition of 109, while the country part of the pariſh has ſuffered the decreaſe of 10 in its numbers. On the whole,

whole, the increaſe of inhabitants within the laſt 50 years, may be ſtated at above 600.

Village of Ayton.—The village of Ayton is ſituated on the banks of the Eye. About 30 new houſes have been feued in it within theſe 15 years; they conſiſt of two or three ſtories, and are covered with tyles. The village has been improved by ranging theſe new buildings upon a pleaſant ſloping bank fronting the ſouth.

Manufactures.—A paper-mill was lately erected here at conſiderable expence. It employs about 70 or 80 work people, and circulates about L. 25 *per* week. The wages earned by the paper-makers are high. This manufacture gives employment to a number of young perſons, who are taken in at eight years of age. There is a wind-mill here, which was a pretty extenſive work. It manufactured a good deal of flour during the American war, but has done little or no buſineſs ſince. There are four water-mills in this pariſh; one brewery, which does not carry on an extenſive trade; a bleachfield, which was eſtabliſhed many years ago, and ſucceeds: It employs about 7 or 8 hands.

Church and Stipend.—The pariſh church appears to be an old edifice, and has lately received ſeveral improvements, which its former ſtate rendered extremely neceſſary. The ſtipend, including a late augmentation, and the value of the glebe, is about L. 135 *per annum*. The Crown is patron.

Poor.—The number of the poor belonging to this pariſh is variable. The heritors and tenants are aſſeſſed to the extent of L. 30 or L. 40 *per annum* for their ſupport. To this fund is added one half of the contributions at the church, which,

at-

at an average, is about 1s. 2d. weekly. The other half is diſtributed under the inſpection of the kirk-ſeſſion in occaſional charities. Part of it, together with the money ariſing from marriages and the uſe of the pall (mort-cloth) is applied to educate poor children and pay church officers. The expence incurred for the maintenance of the parochial poor has increaſed near two thirds during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter. The people in general, however, cannot bear the idea of being put on the poor's roll, even when they are in diſtreſs. During a late period of ſcarcity meal was purchaſed for the uſe of poor houſeholders, and ſold at a very moderate price; but few applied for the benefit of this aid, except thoſe who were accuſtomed to receive charity.

Price of Proviſions.—The price of butcher meat is from 3½d. to 4d. *per* lb. Engliſh weight; it has advanced about 1d. *per* lb. within theſe 6 or 8 years. The price of pork is variable. Haddocks, which ſold formerly at 4d. or 6d. *per* ſcore, now often bring as much a piece. A gooſe is ſold here for 2s.; a pair of ducks for 1s. 3d.; a pair of hens for 1s. 6d.; a turkey for 2s. 6d.; butter ſells for 7d. and cheeſe for 4d *per* lb. The prices of grain may be aſcertained from the fiars of the county.

Wages.—The wages of a labourer are 1s. a day; a carpenter's and maſon's, 1s. 4d.; a taylor's, 1s. Threſhing of corn is uſually paid by what is termed *lot*, *i. e.* 1 boll is allowed for every 25 bolls that are threſhed. The wages of a maſon and his labourer, &c. are generally ſettled at ſo much a rood. A hind receives 2 bolls of barley, 1 boll of peaſe, and 10 bolls of oats; he has a cow's graſs, a houſe and yard, and as much ground as will ſerve to plant a firlot of potatoes. He is likewiſe allowed what coals he may have occaſion for in his family,

milk, paying only the prime coft, which is about 2 s. 8 d. *per* cart load, including the tolls; the carriage is equal to 4 s. *per* load. The hind's wife reaps in harveft for the houfe. He has alfo L. 1 allowed for fheep's grafs. A man fervant receives from L. 5 to L. 7 *per annum*, with bed and board; a maid fervant from L. 2 to L. 4 *per annum*.

Sectaries.—There are feveral fectaries in this parifh. The firft was a fociety of Antiburghers. Their number is very fmall. Their minifter is provided with a very good houfe, and receives from them, perhaps, about L. 40 *per annum*. There is alfo a Burgher meeting-houfe in the village, rather of a better appearance than the other; the fect of Seceders who attend it are more numerous than the former, and of principles more accommodating to the times. They alfo provide a houfe for their minifter, and allow him, probably, L. 60 or L. 70 *per annum*. Both thefe houfes have been built fince the 1773. Though a confiderable number have attached themfelves to the different fectaries, yet, being compofed of the inferior ranks of the people, their defection has not diminifhed the contribution for the parochial poor. Little is allotted by them to the maintenance of their own poor; yet they contribute with zeal, many of them with liberality ill fuited to their circumftances, for the fupport of their eccleiiaftical eftablifhment.

Roads.—The roads in the parifh are getting into good repair. The poft road is now made, and fupported by two turnpikes, which were lately erected; one at the extremity of the county towards Eaft Lothian, and the other at Berwick bounds. When they were firft propofed, they met with keen oppofition; but they have fince been univerfally acknowledged to be of fignal benefit to the country. The ftatute

labour

labour is commuted. Putting up the roads to auction, has been the mean of getting them made much cheaper than formerly.

Improvements suggested.—It would be an advantage to this parish, as well as to Eyemouth, if the mail-coach would drop a bag, containing such letters as are addressed to the inhabitants of each, which would relieve them from the expence of sending to Berwick or Press. If the woollen or cotton manufacture were introduced and encouraged here, the condition of the people might be greatly improved. To take the duty off coals carried coast-ways to Eyemouth, as is done at Dunbar (to which port Eyemouth belongs) would greatly promote the establishment of manufactures. This duty yields but a mere trifle to government, and subjects the people here to a state of entire dependence on Northumberland for fuel. As the coal hills adjoining to this part of the country are almost entirely engrossed by one person, it would be rather surprising if he did not avail himself of this advantage, by keeping up the price of so important an article.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The kelp made here is supposed to be about 15 or 20 tons annually. There are some quarries in this parish, the stones of which answer for building, and are supposed to be impregnated with an iron ore. Free-stone is confined to a small part of the shore. The free-stone must be transported to the harbour of Eyemouth, and then carried by land. Corn is carried to market in carts, which have been used here for the space of 40 or 50 years. On the hills on the south side of the parish are the remains of two camps, supposed to be Roman or Saxon. Several urns, and broken pieces of armour, have been found here. In the low grounds towards the north-west, are the vestiges of three encampments,

eampments, thought to have been Daniſh or Pictiſh. Hiſtory mentions the caſtle of Ayton, but ſcarcely any veſtiges of it now remain. The names of places ſeem to be derived chiefly from the Saxon. There is one public, and two private ſchools in the pariſh. The eſtabliſhed ſchoolmaſter, as is too generally the caſe, has not a proviſion adequate to the importance of ſuch a charge. There are two white thread-makers in the pariſh. There are two or three bridges; one of them was built by aid from government: They are of great utility. Two boats crews only belong to Ayton.

In 1673, there appears to have been 24 heritors, including portioners and feuers, in this pariſh: In 1790, there are about 14. At the former period, they were more diſtinguiſhed by family and rank. There were 6 of the name of Home, each of ſome diſtinction; now there is only one of that name; their lands having been diſpoſed of by the great heritors. There are, however, ſeveral deſcendants of portioners who ſtill retain their poſſeſſions.

The people, in general, are diſpoſed to induſtry. Since the induction of the preſent miniſter there is a very viſible change in their mode of living and dreſs. Though the farms are much higher rented than formerly, yet the tenants are, in every reſpect, much more expenſive than they were 15 years ago. Tradeſmen and labourers in the village are addicted to the pernicious habit of uſing tea. Of late, alſo, from the low price of whiſky, the execrable cuſtom of *dram-drinking* is gaining ground, even among the women of the lower claſs. Habits ſo inimical to health, induſtry, and morals, ought to be checked if poſſible. Two perſons belonging to this pariſh have been baniſhed from Scotland ſince the incumbent was ſettled. He knows only of one perſon who has

has been guilty of ſuicide. There is no want of employment for the people. They ſeem contented with their ſituation and circumſtances, and are not ſtrangers to the comforts of life.

This pariſh has ſeveral advantages. It is near markets, for diſpoſing of grain, cattle, or ſtock on the farms, being 7 miles from Berwick and 2 from Eyemouth. It is at no great diſtance from coal: The price, however, conſidering that diſtance, is certainly high. The poſt-road to London goes through the pariſh: And the vicinity of the ſea affords a good ſupply of moſt kinds of fiſh. The pariſh of Ayton does much more than ſupply itſelf with proviſions.

NUM.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF AIR.

By the Rev. Dr DALRYMPLE, *and the Rev. Dr* M'GILL.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THE name of the town, parish, and county of Air, belonged first to the river, and was derived to them from it. It is probably of Celtic origin; for, according to the information of a gentleman skilled in the Irish language, *Abre* signifies thin or shallow, and is truly descriptive of the water of Air compared with the neighbouring water of *Dobn*, now Doon, which, flowing out of a large lake, is furnished with a more deep and copious stream. There are two towns of the same name in France, *Aire* in Artois, and *Aire* in Gascony, which, no doubt, have the same etymology. The antient name of this parish, as appears from some old papers, was *Are*; the modern name is Air or Ayr. It is situated in the county of Air, presbytery of Air, and synod of Glasgow and Air. Its form is quadrangular. The west side, about a mile and a half long, is bounded by the sea; the north, about 3 miles long, by the river Air; the south, about the same length, by the river Doon; the eastern side is fully 4 miles long, bounded by the parishes of Dalrymple and Coylton. For a mile and a half south of the town, the country is quite flat, and the soil sandy. It is nearly the same on the

north side of the river, and the rise is but small for two miles more. On the east the rise is gradual and beautiful for two miles and a half. The soil is for the most part deep, much improved of late, and beautified by elegant plantations. The shore is flat, and, in general, sandy. There are some sunk rocks; but they are not dangerous.

Climate and Diseases.—The air, upon the whole, is rather moist, owing to the clouds, which are wafted by the south-west wind from the Atlantic Ocean. With a west wind, which is often the case, little or no rain falls upon the parish of Air; the clouds being broken on the highest point of the Isle of Arran. About the time of the Equinox, there are frequently high winds. In spring, there are often long tracts of cold winds, which blow from the north-east and the north. Though the climate is salubrious in general, yet persons of a consumptive habit ought to dwell at a distance from the parish of Air. A sea voyage gives the best chance of recovery. The common distempers incident to children prove less fatal here than in neighbouring towns. No fields can be more commodious for walking, or the healthful exercises of riding and golfing. Wise parents send out their children early to sport upon turf full of different sorts of clover, particularly the yellow and the white. Once or twice within these 40 years, a dangerous sore throat, accompanied with a putrid fever, has been epidemical.

Lakes and Mineral Springs.—There are two small lakes, one toward the south-side, named *Carleny*, and the other at the eastern extremity, called *Loch-Fergus*, which is mentioned in the town's charter about 600 years ago. It appears that some considerable edifice has stood in its vicinity, out of the ruins of which several houses have been built. It has a small isle

in

in the middle, and, probably, was a *berenry*. In this lake are pike and eels, but few trouts. There is a mineral ſpring on the north ſide of the river, found out near 50 years ago, and ſtill uſed by a few poor people. It comes from a mixture of coal and iron, and has been thought efficacious in ſeveral diſorders.

Fiſh.—Haddock and cod have been very plentiful on Air coaſt ſince the herrings left it: Mackarel has been ſcarce for ſome years paſt: Soals and turbot are rare. White fiſh are generally ſold at 1 d. per Engliſh pound. The price of ſalmon in January, and till the month of March, is between 6 d. and 3 d. per pound. They are much ſcarcer than formerly, owing, it is ſuppoſed, to the liming of land. The price is kept high, too, on account of their being carried to Kilmarnock, Irvine, Glaſgow, and chiefly Paiſley. Forty years ago, herrings were caught in great numbers, and ſold from 6 d. to 3 d. per hundred. Sail-fiſh of large ſize are ſometimes taken, whence are got oils for tanners. The ſeaſon for white fiſh is through the whole year, except about ſix weeks, from the end of March till the beginning of May, old ſtile. When herrings were caught at the mouth of Air river, a lamp was uſually placed there. This lamp was of great uſe in preventing ſhip-wrecks; and the loſs of ſeveral lives, and loaded veſſels, at the end of the year 1789, may be imputed to the want of it.

Cultivation and Produce.—Very little ground in this pariſh now lies waſte or common. Between 80 and 90 acres, free to every burgeſs, for feeding milk cows, was lately incloſed. About 20 acres of common was feued from the town, little more than 30 years ago, at L. 112 Sterling, with 18 s. 9 d. of feu-duty. Being brought into good tillage, and finely planted,

planted, it ſold in 1790 for L. 1100 Sterling. Thirty years ago there was much heath towards the eaſt; it is now green, or yielding crops. Sea-weed is thrown in plentifully by winter ſtorms, and much uſed in manuring land. Marle, in the higher grounds, is got in abundance, and is of great advantage, as there is little lime but what is imported from Ireland. Oats are ſown from the end of February to the end of March; peaſe and beans are ſown in April; barley in May and June. Wheat ſown before winter is commonly firſt reaped, towards the end of Auguſt. The pariſh is ſcarcely able to ſupply itſelf with proviſions, as appears from importations, and no great decreaſe of price. Little flax is raiſed, at leaſt for ſale. A conſiderable quantity of artificial graſſes is raiſed with great ſucceſs. Moſt of the wood in the pariſh is young, but thriving well.

Population.—It appears from the records of the Sailors Society, that, when wine was imported at Air from France, the population was much greater than at preſent. When a plague broke out here, near 200 years ago, according to tradition, about 2000 died. In 1745, the inhabitants were reckoned about 2000. The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 2964 ſouls. Trade ſince that time revived, particularly tobacco which added conſiderably to the population. Incloſing took place much about the ſame time; and in the years 1747, 1748, 1749, and 1750, the herring fiſhing was great: Sailors, coopers, &c. were of courſe numerous Upon the whole, the inhabitants have been increaſing ſenſibly, though not rapidly, for more than 30 years paſt. The number of examinable perſons in the pariſh, reckoning from 7 years of age and upwards, is above 3400. Of theſe there are 3000 in the town, and the remainder in the country. The number of ſouls may therefore be ſtated at about 4100 ſouls.

Many

Many of the inhabitants are between 70 and 100 years of age. One walked to London after his 100th year; another above 100 died a few months ago.

Abstract of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, at different periods.

Years.	Births.			Mar.	Deaths.			
	M.	F.	Tot.		Men.	Wom.	Chil.	Tot.
1664— 5	146	128	274					
1688— 9	128	131	259	34				
1698— 9	91	88	179	41				
1715—16	82	97	179	31				
1734—35	100	90	190	42	32	49	39	127
1745—46	90	86	176	49				
1756—57	112	107	219	54				
1767—68	112	133	255	66	33	41	45	119
1777—78	168	110	278	59	38	48	60	146
1788—89	117	113	230	89	47	45	65	157

There are above 600 inhabited houses in the parish. The number of heritors is about 60. There are 2 ministers of the Established Church, 2 Moravians, 1 Episcopalian, and 1 Methodist. There are 2 physicians, 3 surgeons and apothecaries, and about 16 writers. The seceders amount to about 50 or 60.

State of the Poor.—Weekly collections, and other parish funds, put it in the power of the session to distribute L. 100 *per annum*. The town gives L. 30, the sailors L. 10, the writers L. 5, the merchants L. 3; and other small corporations contribute to the extent of L. 14 or L. 15; besides which, there is a half year's *stent* of L. 50. The session retains, for occasional charities among poor tradesmen, and others, about L. 20. If any part of this sum is saved at the

end

end of the year, it is added to the funds of the Charity-houſe. This houſe was built by ſubſcription in 1756, and is fit to receive 60 perſons; but, as many penſioners prefer a ſmall weekly allowance out of the houſe, there are ſeldom more than 40 in it. Alderman Smith of Londonderry, born at Air, left L. 100, ſeveral years ago, to purchaſe land for poor houſekeepers. This charity has proved very ſeaſonable. Provoſt Cochrane of Glaſgow, born and educated at Air, left likewiſe L. 100, the intereſt of which is appointed to be given to a reputable burgeſs's widow or daughter during life. An infirmary and bridewell are much wanted.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—A labourer, with a wife and 5 children, is able to earn 7 s. per week, and ſometimes a little more. At an average, he purchaſes 3 pecks of meal, and a greater quantity of potatoes, half a cart of coals, and ſoap to the value of 2d. per week; 3 ſtone of wool, at 7 s. 6d. the ſtone, for clothing, and 10 lib. of lint, at 10 d. per lib. *per annum*. His wife's attendance on the children prevents her from earning much. This may ſerve as a general ſpecimen of the wages and expences of a labourer's family. A ſhoemaker, if induſtrious, gets from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 8 d. a-day; a maſon from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; a wright from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 9 d.; a taylor 1 s. 2 d. The price of proviſions is more than doubled within theſe laſt 50 years. Beef and mutton is now from 4 d. to 5 d. per lib. Lamb is from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. per quarter; pork 6 d. per lib.; veal from 4 d. to 6 d.; pigs from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s.; geeſe 2 s.; ducks from 9 d. to 1s.; chickens 4 d. and ſometimes leſs; rabbits 9 d.; butter from 6 d. to 8 d. per lib.; cheeſe from 4 d. to 6 d.; wheat from 21 s. to 25 s. per boll; barley from 18 s. to 20 s.; oats from 16 s. to 18 s.

Church

Church and Stipend.—The preſent church was built in 1654, and is kept in good repair by the magiſtrates. The old church, ſtiled St John Baptiſt's, was converted by Oliver Cromwel into an armory; for which he gave an allowance of 1000 Engliſh merks to build another. It was in St John Baptiſt's church that the parliament met to confirm Bruce's title to the throne. Records of their ſederunt ſhew, that numbers of the nobility could only ſign their initials. The ſenior miniſter's living, including the glebe, is about L. 130 *per annum*. The King is patron. The town generally allows the ſenior miniſter 12 guineas for a houſe. The legal ſtipend of his colleague would ſcarcely amount to L. 75; but, from regard to him who at preſent fills the charge, the magiſtrates and council, beſides allowance for a houſe, have added a ſum which makes his ſtipend L. 105. The town-council and ſeſſion are patrons.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are no volcanic appearances in this pariſh, unleſs large rocks, and fragments of rocks, which have numerous indented ſtones, or metals of different kinds, be conſidered as ſuch. Various figured ſtones and petrifactions have been found in the pariſh. There is a conſiderable quantity of moor-ſtone lying on the ſurface of the ground. The free-ſtone lies rather deep. Some houſes in the town let at L. 20, but a greater number between that ſum and L. 10. The rent of the ſalmon fiſhery in the river Doon is L. 80; that in the river Air a little leſs. The markets here are good. The common fuel is coal. The price paid at the pit, per cart, is from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. The one pit is half a mile diſtant, and the other rather more. That at Drungan, in the pariſh of Stair, though a little dearer, is undoubtedly the beſt. According to tradition, there was a battle fought, before the Chriſtian æra, in the valley of Dalrymple,

rymple, in which two Kings, Fergus and Coilus, fell. It is added, that Lochfergus takes its name from the former, and the river Kyle from the latter. Thither Coilus, it is ſaid, was purſued and ſlain. The ſmall village of Coylton, 6 miles eaſt of Air, likewiſe is ſaid to derive its name from him. It has been ſuppoſed that Dalrymple, *Dale-roi-mel*, ſignifies the valley of the ſlaughter of kings. There is a cairn of ſtones in the midſt of this valley. In June 1734, a ball of fire paſſed through two oppoſite windows of the neweſt ſteeple, broke one end of the bell bomb-joiſt, and then deſcended to the ſtreet, but did no more harm. A boy in the neighbourhood was killed by another ball of fire. Perhaps the only inundation that deſerves notice happened in 1739, attended with a great ſtorm. This raiſed the river much, and forced ſhips of conſiderable burden quite out of the channel.

NUM-

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF CARRIDEN.

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE ELLIS.

Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE parish of Carriden *, pronounced Carrin, is situated in the county of Linlithgow, or West Lothian, about 18 miles west from Edinburgh, on the south side of the Frith of Forth, is in the presbytery of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is about 1 mile in breadth from north to south, and about 2 miles in length from east to west; bounded by Abercorn on the east, Borrowstounness on the west, and Linlithgow on the south. The soil is rather of a light kind, and agrees better with a rainy than a dry season: The climate, in general, however, is dry and healthy. The land is all arable, and produces grain, grass, and vegetables of every kind. It is let out to small tenants generally, most of whom are poor, and live poorly, at 30, 40, or 50 shillings per acre. The greatest part of it is inclosed.

* The name is certainly of Celtic original. In that language, *caer* signifies a post or station; and, as it is situated at the eastern extremity of Graham's dyke, the Romans doubtless, had a considerable station here. As to the latter part, it may be derived either from *readan*, a reed, or *reidhe*, plain, open; the post among the reeds, the post in the plain.

Coal.—This pariſh is full of coal, for which there is great demand It likewiſe abounds in free-ſtone. The coal is of a fine quality, and is the only fuel uſed in the pariſh. It is carried to London, to the northmoſt parts of Scotland, to Holland, Germany, and the Baltic. It ſells at a higher price on the hill, and to the country people who live near, and therefore muſt uſe it, than any coal in Scotland. It lies very deep; this may be one cauſe of its high price. There are above 100 carts employed in the coal works, to drive coals to the ſea and the ſalt pans.

Grange Colliery.

Great.	Chows.	Culm.	
15,700—	4,300—	5,100	tons produced yearly;
6,137—	2,380—	600	tons of which exported.

Colliers	35
Coal mines	2
Fire-engines	2

The great coal ſold, per cart, which contains 900 weight, at 3 s. 6 d.
The chows, or ſmaller coal, at 2 s. 9 d.
The culm, or panwood, at 1 s. 9 d.

Salt pans	5
Buſhels of ſalt made yearly	16,200

There is another colliery in the pariſh, which yields more coal and ſalt than that mentioned above.

Population.—This pariſh contains, at an average, between 1400 and 1500 ſouls. Perhaps the eighth part of the people are ſeceders. Each marriage, at an average, produces 6 children. Many of the inhabitants have attained to 70, 80, and

90 years of age. There are 4 heritors, none of whom reſide in the pariſh. The alterations here, and in the neighbourhood, with regard to the dreſs and manner of living of the people, are very great.

Villages.—There are 4 villages in the pariſh; Grangepans, Bridgeneſs, Benhardpans, and Blackneſs. Moſt of the ſhipping that is now in Borrowſtounneſs formerly belonged to Grangepans: But, ſince a good pier and harbour was erected in Borrowſtounneſs, moſt of the ſhips lie there. The trade along the ſouth ſide of the Forth is much decayed. It is gone to Grangemouth, which is 4 miles up the Frith from Borrowſtounneſs, and the entry into the great canal. At preſent Borrowſtounneſs has little trade but what ariſes from the coal and ſalt works.

Wages.—Servants wages are very high here. A ſervant man, who would have been ſatisfied, 40 years ago, with L. 1 : 5 : 0 half yearly, now gets L. 3 or L. 4 half yearly, and ſometimes more. A ſervant maid, who got 10 or 11 ſhillings per half year, 40 or 50 years ago, now gets 30, 40, and ſometimes 50 ſhillings in the half year. A day-labourer gets 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. a-day, who was formerly hired for 5 d. in winter, and 7 d. in ſummer, per day. The price of proviſions has riſen in proportion.

Stipend.—The ſtipend is preciſely 8 chalders of victual, or L. 800 Scots. The glebe is 5 Scots acres, valued at 30 ſhillings per acre. The Duke of Hamilton is patron. This living would have ſupported a family 50 years ago better than L. 120 Sterling could do here now.

Eminent Men.—The only eminent perſon born in this pa-

riſh

riſh was Colonel James Gardner, killed at the unfortunate battle of Preſtonpans in 1745, whoſe remarkable converſion, with many intereſting particulars of a life and character, no leſs eminent for natural endowments than for the practice of every Chriſtian virtue, are detailed in the well known Memoirs of him publiſhed by his friend Dr Doddridge.

Antiquities.—That celebrated Roman work called *Graham's Dyke*, terminates in this pariſh, it is ſaid, at a place called Waltown. About 50 years ago, in digging up ſtones to build a park dyke, axes, pots, and ſeveral vaſes, evidently Roman, were found, and ſent to the Advocates Library at Edinburgh, where they ſtill are. In this pariſh ſtands the ancient fort, or garriſon, of Blackneſs, one of the oldeſt forts in Scotland, and one of the four that is to be kept in repair by the articles of Union. It has a governor, lieutenant-governor, 2 gunners, 1 ſergeant, 2 corporals, and 12 or 15 privates. It is built in the form of a ſhip.

NUM-

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF COYLTON.

By the Rev. Mr DAVID SHAW.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THERE is a tradition, though it is believed very ill founded, that Coylton derives its name from a King called Coilus, who was killed in battle in the neighbourhood, and buried at the church of Coylton. This parish is in the district of the county of Air called *Kyle*, in the presbytery of Air, and synod of Glasgow and Air. It is 7 miles long, and, at an average, about 2 broad. It is bounded on the south by Damallington, on the east by Stair, on the north by Tarbolton and St Quivox, on the west by Air, and on the south-west by Dalrymple. The soil of the greater part of the parish is clayey, which, when properly cultivated, is abundantly fertile. The holms near the rivers of Air and of Kyle, are fertile and dry. The parish, in general, is flat; one farm, however, on the south is rather high ground.

Population.—Forty years ago, the farms were in general small and *run-rig*, which was necessarily an obstacle to improvement. The proprietors at that time occupied their own lands, and kept them in grass, which, of course, diminished the number of inhabitants. The lands being afterwards properly

properly divided, were let in larger farms, and population again increaſed. The number of inhabitants, as returned to Dr Webſter, was 527; at preſent they amount to 667. For theſe laſt eight years, the annual average of baptiſms is about 15; of marriages 9; and of burials 16.

Poor.—10 or 12 poor perſons are generally ſupported by the ſeſſion. The funds are about L. 50 Sterling at intereſt, and the weekly collections made at the church.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3330 Scots; the real rent about L. 2000 Sterling. The number of heritors is 9; 2 of whom reſide in the pariſh.

Church and Stipend.—The church, which is an old prebendary, was repaired about 16 years ago. The manſe was built in 1750. The ſtipend is 5 chalders of victual, half meal half barley, 500 merks of money, and 100 merks for communion elements.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is wholeſome. There are three conſiderable lakes, particularly one called Martorham, a mile long, and in ſome parts a quarter of a mile broad. Lime, marle, and ſeveral ſtrata of coal, are lately found. Coal is the only fuel uſed in the pariſh. There are ſeveral plantations: Both they and the natural woods are in a thriving ſtate. A labourer's wages are 1 s. per day. All the inhabitants of this pariſh belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church.

NUM.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF BALLANTRAE.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Ballantrae is ſituated in the extremity of the county of Ayr, towards the ſouth *, and marches with the ſhire of Wigton on the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt. It is nearly ten miles ſquare. It is bounded on the north and north-eaſt by the pariſh of Colmonell; on the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt by the pariſhes of New Luce and Inch, in the ſhire of Wigton; and by the ſea on the weſt and ſouth-weſt, having an extent of more than ten miles of ſea coaſt. The ſhore, excepting for about two miles oppoſite to the village of

* Both the pariſh of Ballantrae, and the neighbouring pariſh of Colmonell, were originally connected with the preſbytery of Ayr, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr; but were diſjoined a little time after the Revolution, on account of their great diſtance from the ſeat of Preſbytery, and annexed to the preſbytery of Stranraer and ſynod of Galloway. The pariſh takes its name from the village of Ballantrae, which is evidently of Gaelic original, and ſignifies, in that language, the town upon or above the ſhore; alluding to its ſituation on a gentle aſcent immediately from the ſhore: And this may be the reaſon why, though only a village, it always obtains the name of the "town "of Ballantrae," while other villages through the country, not in ſimilar ſituations, are generally called *Clachans*.

of Ballantrae, is in general high and rocky, having a tremendous ſurf or ſwell beating againſt it, when the wind blows from the weſt and north-weſt. Oppoſite to this coaſt the ſea appears land-locked, for a moſt ſpacious bay of nearly 25 or 30 leagues diameter is formed by part of the coaſt of Galloway, the moſt part of the two counties of Down and Antrim in Ireland, the eaſt coaſt of Argyleſhire, and part of Dumbartonſhire, and by the whole ſtretch of coaſt along the ſhire of Ayr for about 80 miles; all this vaſt extent of coaſt is eaſily diſcernible by the naked eye in a clear day, together with the iſlands of Sana, Annan, Lamlaſh, Bute, and the two ſmall iſlands of Cumbray. About four or five leagues north-weſt from Ballantrae ſtands the iſland of Elſay: It is a moſt beautiful rock of a conical figure, covered on the top with heath and a little graſs. It is not inhabited by any human creature; but affords refuge to an immenſe number of ſea fowls who breed on it, and is ſtocked with rabbits and a few goats. It is the property of the Earl of Caſſillis; and is rented at L. 25 Sterling a year, the tenants paying their rent from the feathers of the different ſea fowls, from the ſolan geeſe that breed on it, and the rabbit ſkins. It affords a fine object all round that coaſt, and a mark for ſhips either coming into, or going out of the Frith of Clyde. There is an old ruinous caſtle on it, about a third part up the rock, ſaid by Campbell, in his Political Survey of Britain, to have been built by Phillip II. of Spain, but on what authority is not known. There are four light-houſes, one at the new built harbour of Portpatrick, another at the town of Donaghadee, a third on the Mull of Cantyre, and a fourth on the iſland of Cambray; and it might be of ſingular uſe to the towns of Air, Irvine, and Saltcoats, which carry on a conſiderable trade with Ireland, and the towns on the weſt of England, if a fifth light-houſe was erected on a ſmall low iſland,

iſland, called the Lady Iſle, in the bay of Air. The ſhore all along that part of the coaſt is flat and ſandy; the bay is deep, and the entrance into the harbours ſtrait and difficult.

Surface, Soil, &c.—The land in this pariſh riſes with a gradual ſlop from the ſhore to the tops of the mountains, which form part of that extenſive range of hills that ſtretches acroſs the ſouth of Scotland, almoſt from the Iriſh ſea to the Frith of Forth beyond Edinburgh. Near the ſhore the ſoil in general is a light, dry, hazle mould, upon a gravel bottom, and for the moſt part but thin. The ſurface is much diverſified with heights and hollows, interſected with a great number of little ſtreams of water deſcending from the hills. All beyond the mountains is a ſoft moſſy ground covered with heath, and a thin long graſs called *ling* by the country people. Even below the mountains, heath is the prevailing appearance, excepting where the ground has been in tillage, or immediately upon the ſhore, where there is ſome very fine natural graſs. The ground is in general adapted to the breeding and feeding of black cattle and ſheep, and is univerſally applied to that purpoſe, excepting the grain which the inhabitants raiſe for their own uſe.

Population and condition of the People.—There are 770 in the pariſh, and of theſe about 300 are in the village. The annual number of births is 18. The number of deaths cannot be ſo well aſcertained, as it is but of late years that a regiſter of them was kept at all, and even that not accurately, and the marriages ſtill leſs. The marriages, as would be expected, from the ſituation and habits of life of the people in the country, are, in general, prolific. Inſtances are to be met with of a woman bearing fourteen children to one huſband. The average of births to each marriage may be taken at ſix. The inhabitants are lodged

in about 190 dwelling houſes, which is a little more than 4 perſons to each houſe. One hundred and thirteen of the houſes are in what is called the country; the other 77 make the village or town of Ballantrae. The inhabitants of both town and country enjoy the comforts of ſociety, in proportion to their circumſtances, in a ſuperior degree to others in ſimilar conditions of life. Theſe ſatisfactions are owing to various cauſes, all contributing their mite to render them healthy, eaſy, and contented, and, in general, chearful.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—Their local ſituation, a high, open, and dry ſoil, with upwards of 10 miles of ſea coaſt, expoſed to the ſalubrious breezes of the weſtern ocean, together with their rural employments, renders the inhabitants uncommonly healthy. Epidemical diſtempers, excepting the common diſorders incident to children, are unknown. Deaths, except from particular accidents, are confined to infancy and old age. There are a greater number to be met with in this pariſh dying above 80 years of age than in moſt others. It is to be lamented that innoculation for the ſmall-pox is not more practiſed. There are very few families through the country part of the pariſh, but what have a piece of ground along with their houſe and yard, that enables them to keep one or more cows, and two or three ſheep. The young of their cows, when a year old, ſells for 30 s. or 50 s. which pays two-thirds of their rent. With the produce of their little piece of ground, furniſhing bread and potatoes, and the milk of a cow, together with their own work, they are enabled to live comfortably, to clothe and educate their children decently, and to aſſiſt in ſetting them out in the world. The inhabitants of the village, which lies cloſe upon the ſhore, enjoy advantages peculiar to their ſituation.

Rent,

Rent, Produce, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3551 : 1 : 6 Scots. It is believed that the real rent, including fisheries, is not much short of L. 2000 Sterling. The rent of arable land is from one to two guineas an acre, and of pasture, in its natural state, 10s. and 12s. an acre. The farms are of very unequal rent and extent, being from L. 10 to L. 115 a year. About 12,000 sheep, 3000 black cattle, a few scores of goats, and perhaps 200 horses, are kept in the parish; and 600 or 800 acres of the ground may be employed in tillage. Almost the only crop is oats, with an acre or two of barley to a family, some pease, and generally as many potatoes as serve the family twice a day for 7 or 8 months in the year. Few or no cottagers are now employed by the farmers of this parish in agriculture, nor have been for a long while past. A cottager's benefit, (as it is called) is commonly from L. 10 to L. 15 a year; the wages of a hired servant is from L. 6 to L. 7 a year. Farmers who have grazing farms, upon which they do not reside themselves, are obliged to employ cottagers to take care of the stock upon them; and it is considered as so desirable a situation, that those farmers who have occasion for married herds to take care of their stock, have it generally in their power to make a choice. The black cattle are of a small handsome kind: The cows, when fattened, weigh from 18 to 27 stone. The sheep, when killed off the common open pasture, at 2 and 3 years old, weigh from 30 to 50 lb. The chief staple commodity is raising young cattle and sheep. The young cattle are for the most part sold to the grazier when *half sums*, that is, when two years and a half old, and are changed from hand to hand till they are four or five years old, when they are sent up to St. Faith and Hampton fairs in England, and make part of what are called the fine *Scots galloways*. The sheep are sold at two and three years old, to supply the demands

mands of the mercantile and manufacturing towns through Lanark, Renfrew, and Airshires.

The wool of the sheep on those farms that lie between the tops of the mountains and the sea is generally very good, and of the short carding wool; what is beyond them is more coarse and shaggy. It sells from 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. *per* stone of 17 lb. Scots weight, equal to 25½ lb. English weight; the average price through the whole being 9s. for 25½ lb. which is nearly 4½ d. *per* lb. This shews the propriety of the farmers paying more attention to their wool than is generally done; and it is believed that there are few situations more favourable to an improvement in that article than the first mentioned class of farms in this parish. Both the soil and the climate are favourable. The soil is light, dry, and kindly, affording firm footing, a dry bed, and proper nourishment to the sheep; the cool refreshing breezes from the sea during the summer, prevent the bad effects of immoderate heat upon the new shorn wool; and the ground during the winter season is very seldom entirely covered with snow above two days together. If the farmers would take the trouble to introduce, from time to time, some good wooled rams, and gradually cut off any coarse wooled ewes that may be in their flocks, it is possible to improve their wool to such a degree, as that instead of the very best of it being now sold at 10s. 6d. it might be sold at nearly three times the price. This would nearly double the profits of their sheep on the whole, and at almost no trouble nor expence; and it is perhaps the most beneficial of all improvements that they ever have it in their power to make upon their farms.

Roads.

Roads.—Till of late years there were few roads through the ſhire of Air that were barely paſſable. About the year 1774 an act of Parliament was obtained, commuting the ſtatute labour for an annual payment, at the rate of 25 s. for every L. 100 Scots of valued rent. Through the interior, more populous, and arable parts of the country the roads were ſoon made; and by the aſſiſtance of government and a toll, one good road has been made through this pariſh: But it is little more than a road of communication. The pariſh wants croſs roads in different directions, in order to enable them to lead lime in carts, of which there is plenty within half a mile of the extremity of the pariſh: It is ſold at the moderate price of 7½ d. a boll or 2 Wincheſter buſhels, and 70 or 80 of theſe bolls are found perfectly ſufficient for an acre of this thin, light, dry ſoil. Some ſmall experiments have been made in liming, which have ſucceeded to the utmoſt expectation. There are perhaps from 10 to 12,000 acres of land in the pariſh that could be limed, and made fit for ſock and ſcythe; and the ſucceſsful attempts of individuals, it is to be hoped, will in time encourage the generality to follow the example.

Fiſheries.—A pretty conſiderable river, named Ardſtinchar, runs for about 25 miles through the country, and empties itſelf into the ſea at the village of Ballantrae; but it is rapid and ſhallow, and can only admit of ſmall boats. At the mouth of this river there is a conſiderable ſalmon fiſhery, which yields a rent of above L. 80 a year. The ſalmon are thought as good as any in Scotland, and ſell upon the ſpot at 1½ d. the lb. and it is but very lately they were more than 1 d. About 20 years ago there were great ſhoals of excellent herrings that came upon the coaſt at the end of harveſt and beginning of winter, ſince that time they appear only in

the

the ſpring, about a league off; and though they are then far from being good, they are ſold to the country people in the neighbourhood from 20 d. to 2 s. a hundred. There were formerly great quantities of haddocks and whitings at the ſame ſeaſon, but for a few years paſt the prevailing fiſhery is cod, with ſome ſkate and ling. The cod and ling is ſold from 4 d. or 6 d.; the ſkate from 1 d. to 1 s. a piece, according to their ſize and qualities; ſmaller fiſh, as haddocks, &c. from 6 d. to 1 s. a dozen.

Price of Proviſions.—Though the price of proviſions is greatly increaſed within theſe 20 years, it cannot yet be ſaid to be high. Beef, mutton, lamb, and pork, (of which laſt there is a great deal more reared than uſed in the pariſh) formerly ſold at 2 s. or 3 s. a ſtone, now ſells at 3 s. or 4 s. a ſtone; hens 6 d.; chickens 2 d.; eggs 2 d. a dozen; ſkimmed milk cheeſe 4 s. a ſtone, Scots weight (24 oz. to the lb); butter 10 s. 8 d. ditto, of which there is not a great deal ſold, as the practice of ſmearing their ſheep with tar and butter before the winter ſets in univerſally prevails over all the country.

Church.—The living of Ballantrae is L. 500 Scots of money and three chalders of victual, with a houſe and glebe worth L. 12 or L. 14 Sterling yearly. The preſent incumbent was ordained in 1771, and is the third miniſter from the Revolution. His two predeceſſors each enjoyed the office about 40 years. He is married, and has a ſon and a daughter. The church is at the north-weſt extremity of the pariſh, in the village of Ballantrae, it was built in 1604, and the manſe in 1736, and the repairs upon the manſe and offices ſince that time has coſt the heritors little more than L. 20 Sterling.

Poor.

Poor.—There is an excellent eſtabliſhment of a free ſchool at Ballantrae, for educating the poor. A native of the pariſh, about 40 or 50 years ago, left L. 400, the intereſt of which ſum was appointed to run on, till there was a ſufficient ſum to build a ſchool-houſe, and a dwelling-houſe for the maſter, and from henceforward to pay the ſchoolmaſter; and whoever ſhould be appointed to the office, was to be bound to keep and leave the ſchool and houſe in repair. Accordingly a good houſe was built, and a large garden ſet off. The patron of the pariſh is patron of the ſchool; and by the deed he is entitled to preſent two-thirds of the ſcholars, and the kirk-ſeſſion the other third. The maſter of this ſchool is alſo choſen pariſh ſchoolmaſter, the ſalary of which is about L. 6 Sterling a year: He is alſo the ſeſſion clerk and precentor for the time. All which offices, and the perquiſites of them, together with the value of the houſe and garden, makes the place worth rather more than L. 40 Sterling yearly. The conſequence of this is, that there is generally a well qualified ſchoolmaſter, who is able to teach the languages, and the ſeveral branches of education fitting for buſineſs. From the nature of the ſchool, and its ſituation in a country place, the number of the ſcholars varies according to the ſeaſon of the year. In ſummer, when many of the poor ſcholars and country lads retire to herding and laborious work, the number of ſcholars do not exceed 25 or 30. In winter there are frequently upwards of 50 attending the ſchool.

Antiquities.—The only ruins within the pariſh is the remains of an old church at the north-eaſt extremity of the pariſh; it ſeems to have been formerly the pariſh church, and deſerted for the preſent one, as being more commodious for the inhabitants; it is called Kirkcudbright. And a large old

old caſtle or dwelling adjoining to the village, and ſituated upon a high rock; it is now within the miniſter's graſs glebe. About a century ago it belonged to the Lords of Bargeny. There are no veſtiges about it to diſcover when it was built, or by whom inhabited. The miniſter has been told, that the preſent Lord Hailes takes notice of it in ſome of his tracts upon antiquities.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The inhabitants labour under diſadvantages. Their ſituation might be meliorated. For the common occaſions of life there are weavers, tailors, ſhoemakers, &c. There is no manufactures in the pariſh to increaſe the capital ſtock and promote circulation. Manufactures in carpeting, ſtockings, bonnets, and ſheep ſkins might probably be eſtabliſhed with advantage. They have plenty of peat and turf for fuel; but coals are at the diſtance of 15 or 16 miles by land, and when brought by ſea are ſubject to a duty of 3 s. 4 d. a ton. The circumſtances of the people have been increaſing ſince the year 1782. That ſeaſon of ſcarcity, inſtead of affecting them in the manner it did other parts of Scotland, rather tended to better them. There was an exceſſive growth of graſs in the ſummer of that year, and the crops in this pariſh and to the ſouthward are in general early. That year they were reaped before the froſt and the ſnow ſet in. The great plenty of hay made the cattle ſell to advantage, and the almoſt entire loſs of the crops in the inland counties, occaſioned the inhabitants of theſe counties to come to the ſouth and weſt for ſeed for the enſuing ſeaſon. This gave them an idea of a corn trade, which, together with the increaſing demand for live cattle ſince that period, and conſequent riſe in their price, has made a great alteration for the better in the farmers circumſtances, and given a ſpirit of improvement

improvement and demand for farms in a tenfold degree to what it uſed to be.

The ſhores abound with plenty of fine broad leaved rich ſea-weed or wreck for manure; but there is very little of it uſed for kelp on the coaſt of this pariſh. The animals are thoſe common to the weſt of Scotland, hares, foxes, rabbits, poleçats, wild cats, grouſe, partridges, plovers, wild ducks, and wild geeſe. The migratory kind obſerved are the woodcock, cuckoo, ſtarling, ſwallow, &c. Among the migratory animals may be mentioned the ſailfiſh, which appears upon this coaſt the firſt or ſecond week of June, and continues for three or four weeks. They meaſure from 20 to 30 feet long. The people of the village kill them with harpoons for the oil, which is made of the liver. The liver of a good fiſh will yield from 40 to 50 gallons of oil, which they ſell to tanners, &c. and uſe part of it themſelves to burn in place of candles.

There are ſeveral mineral ſprings in the pariſh, which have been found beneficial in ſcorbutic and other cutaneous diſeaſes, and in complaints of the ſtomach ariſing from acidity and want of digeſtion.

There is no perſon in the pariſh connected with the law, not even a conſtable or ſheriff's officer, nor has there been any in the memory of the oldeſt inhabitant. There is no juſtice of peace in the pariſh, nor within many miles of it; and the ſheriff's court is at the diſtance of 36 miles. There is no ſurgeon or phyſician within a dozen miles, and it is doubtful whether half a dozen ſuch pariſhes would give bread to one.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF TERREGLES.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN KENNEDY.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil.

TERREGLES is derived from *Terra Ecclesiae*, or *Terre d'Eglise*. It is situated in the stewartry of Kircudbright, and in the presbytery of Dumfries, 6 miles from the sea-coast. It is about 5 miles long, and 3 broad; bounded by Holywood on the east, Troqueer on the south, Lochrutton on the west, and Iron-Gray on the north. It consists of a loam and sandy soil. Every kind of grain usual in Scotland is produced in perfection. The rent of land, in general, is from 12 to 25 shillings per acre. There are not above 12 principal farmers employed in husbandry.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in 1790 was 510. The return to Dr Webster being 397, there is, for the number, a considerable increase. There are at present,

Under 10 years of age	70
Between 10 and 20	56
Between 20 and 50	146
Between 50 and 70	208
Between 70 and 100	30
	510

There

There are ſeveral ſeceders, and a few Roman Catholics. None of the inhabitants have emigrated, nor have any been baniſhed from it, in the memory of man.

Church and Stipend.—The church is of the Gothic ſtile, and was built above 200 years ago. The value of the ſtipend, including the glebe, is between L. 65 and L. 70 *per annum*, according to the riſe or fall in the price of victual, part of it being paid in meal and barley. The Duke of Queenſberry is patron.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—As this pariſh lies near the town of Dumfries, living is very expenſive. Fuel is extremely dear. Coal is brought by land 27 or 28 miles; and the price of coal tranſported by ſea is as dear as what is brought by land. Peat, too, is at a great diſtance. The expences of living are nearly double what they were formerly. The wages of domeſtic ſervants and day-labourers are alſo conſiderably raiſed. There is a ſalmon-fiſhery on the ſide of the river Nith, oppoſite to the foot of the pariſh, from which the miniſter of Terregles draws tithe in money. There is an old ruin in this pariſh called the College of Lincluden.

NUM-

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF EDROM.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM REDPATH.

Name, Situation, Surface, and Air.

THE antient name of this parish was Etherham, derived from *Ether*, the original name of Whitewater, and *Ham*, a village on its banks. Edrom is situated in Berwickshire, presbytery of Chirnside, and synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. It is about 10 English miles long and 6 broad. It is bounded by the parishes of Dunse, Langton, Polworth, Foggo, Swinton, Whitsome, Hilton, Chirnside, Preston, and Bunkle. The appearance of the country is flat, except towards the Lammermuir or Cheviot Hills. A great part of the soil is fertile, and produces good corn when well cultivated; part moorish and barren; and part clay or shallow. Formerly the air was moist, but is now considerably dryer, on account of the inclosing and draining every part of the country. Lakes and pools of water are drained, and corn made to grow where the water stood. The air is salubrious. The best proof of this is the longevity of the inhabitants. Several in the parish have attained to 70, 80, and 90 years of age. The fevers, consumptions, and agues, which formerly prevailed here, were thought to have been owing to the moisture of the country. Since it was drained and inclosed, fevers

fevers and agues have ceaſed very much, and inſtead of appearing every year, only come once in four or five years.

Population.—The population of this pariſh is believed to have been much leſs 50 years ago than it is at preſent. Agriculture was not then in that flouriſhing ſtate in which it now is; and manufactures have only begun within theſe 15 or 20 years. From the decreet of locality for ſtipend in the year 1733, it appears that the number of catechiſable perſons were near 800; and the whole, at that time, might amount to more than 900, or near 1000. About 13 years ago, they amounted to 1200 ſouls. The following table will give ſome idea of the population of this pariſh in 1790:

Souls	1336
Males	613
Females	723
Annual average of births	40
Annual average of deaths	10
Annual average of marriages	12
Heritors	9
Farmers	38
Mechanics	34
Inhabited houſes	211
Perſons in a family at an average	6

The number of horſes in the pariſh is about 280, of ſheep 3000, and of black cattle 600.

Manufactures.—There is a paper-mill, a lint-mill, and a wheel-wright manufacture. Fifty-five perſons are employed in the paper-mill, 5 in the lint-mill, and about 5 or 6 in the wheel-wright manufactory. The wages paid per day in the firſt

is

is L. 2 : 15 : 0. The value of the paper made yearly amounts to L. 5000 Sterling. When the wheel manufacture was carried on by James Small, 15 journeymen were employed. He introduced one of the beſt ploughs made in Scotland. A variety of uſeful manufactures, eſpecially linen and woollen, a cotton-mill, ſtocking manufacture, and bleachfield, might be eſtabliſhed. There is abundance of fine ſheep for wool, and a lint-mill is an encouragement to grow flax. There is plenty of fine water and corn to ſupport manufactures. Four hundred perſons might be employed by a linen and cotton-mill.

Wages, Prices, and Poor.—A labourer's wages is 10 d. or 1 s. per day; maſons and carpenters 1 s. 6 d.; taylors 6 d. and their meat. The uſual wages of male ſervants employed in huſbandry is 50 s. or L. 3 per half year, with their board; of female ſervants 30 or 40 ſhillings. All butcher's meat, through the greateſt part of the year, is 3½ d. and 4 d. per pound; butter 8 d.; cheeſe 3½ d. if Scotch; Engliſh is 5 d. and 6 d.; wheat generally 30 ſhillings per boll; oats are 12, 14, 15, and 16 ſhillings per boll, Berwickſhire meaſure; barley is 16, 18, and often 20 ſhillings per boll. The number of poor in this pariſh receiving alms is 12. The annual aſſeſſment laid on the heritors, tenants, and mechanics, for their maintenance, is L. 10. Several of the poor are likewiſe aſſiſted by the weekly collections, kirk-ſeſſion fund, hearſe and mortcloth money.

Rent of Land.—The beſt arable ground is 15 and 20 ſhillings, and the beſt paſture 25 and 30 ſhillings per acre. The rent of ſeveral farms is L. 300, L. 400, L. 500, and L. 600 *per annum*; but there are more at L. 100, L. 50, L. 30, and L. 20. The rent of the whole lands of the pariſh is about

L. 6493

L. 6493 Sterling *per annum.* From a decreet of locality obtained in 1733, it appears that the rent amounted then only to L. 2000 Sterling yearly. One of the heritors marled and incloſed his whole eſtate, and the rent roſe from L. 500 to L. 1500 a year. Another marled the whole of his land, incloſed it with ſtone dykes, and the rent roſe from L. 500 to L. 1200 or L. 1300 *per annum.* Every eſtate, within theſe 20 years, has riſen in proportion. Almoſt the whole of the pariſh is incloſed.

Church and Stipend.—The church was built in 1732, and has been well repaired ſince the preſent incumbent was ſettled. The ſpirit of making churches neat and decent has ſpread to the neighbouring pariſhes. The ſtipend, including the glebe, is about L. 110 Sterling *per annum.* The crown is patron.

Mineral Springs and Rivers.—There is one remarkable mineral ſpring, called *Dunſe Well*, in the eſtate of Niſbet. It appears, that a number of gentry and nobility formerly reſorted to this water; but it is fallen into diſrepute. There are two rivers in the pariſh, viz. Whitewater and Blackwater, commonly pronounced *Whitadder* and *Blakadder.* Whitewater riſes in the Lammermuir Hills, near the confines of Lothian, runs near 30 or 40 miles, and diſcharges itſelf into the Tweed about 2 miles from Berwick. It abounds with ſmall trout. A great number of ſalmon come up and ſpawn in it. Blackwater riſes likewiſe in Lammermuir, above Greenlaw, and after a courſe of about 16 or 18 miles, falls into the Whitewater, at a village called Allantown, in this pariſh. It is celebrated for as fine trout as any in Scotland.

Roads.—The roads are tolerably good. They have been greatly

greatly improved within theſe 30 years. The money raiſed in the pariſh for repairing them is about L. 115 Sterling yearly, by taxing every horſe at 7 s. 6 d. and every cottager at 1 s. 6 d. There are few or no turnpikes, except on the poſt roads. The country is divided in opinion about the advantages or diſadvantages of them.

Manners, Cuſtoms, &c.—There is a very great alteration in the manners, cuſtoms, dreſs, and ſtile of living, of the inhabitants of this pariſh, within theſe 30 years. All ranks have more elegant or commodious houſes, finer cothes, and better food.

NUM-

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF INNERWICK.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN HARVIE.

Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THIS parish is in the county of Haddington, presbytery of Dunbar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It extends from the sea, on the north, about 12 miles southwards. On the coast, it is not above 2 miles broad, but gradually swells towards the south, and in some places may be 5 or 6 miles broad. It is bounded on the west by the parishes of Spott and Dunbar; on the south by Cranshaws and Longformacus; on the east by Oldhamstocks; and on the north by the sea. The face of the country is level, and the soil rich. From the church towards the south the parish is hilly; and the hills partly green and partly heath. In many places on the coast, the soil is rather light and gravelly. The shore is rocky.

Cultivation and Produce.—That part of the parish which is between the high lands and the sea is perhaps about 2000 or 3000 acres, and is employed in raising corn, grass, and turnip. There is very little of it in pasture. There are 56

plough-gates * and a half in the parish. Both English and Scottish ploughs are used. The hilly part of the parish is employed chiefly in pasturing sheep and milk cows. Some black cattle are fed for the market on pasture. The common, which was lately divided, consisted of 1900 acres. Scarcely any flax is raised for sale. Wheat and barley are the principal grains. The lands on the coast are earlier than any other in the country, the harvest being concluded there about the end of September, and frequently sooner. In 1779, it was finished by the 12th of September. The parish produces more corn, and cattle fed on turnip, than is sufficient to supply its inhabitants. Farms are in general large, and increasing in size. There are many inclosures, but little planting, at least very few old trees. The residing heritors have begun to plant of late. One of them has planted 120 acres of common, or heathy ground. The rent of the parish is about L. 4000 Sterling at present, but will probably soon be considerably advanced. The old valuation is L. 9215 Scots. Land in this part of the country let formerly, at an average, at L. 1:11:6; but, according to the new leases, at L. 2:10:0 per acre. There is sea-weed in great abundance; to which, rather than the natural richness of the soil, the high price of land on the coast must be attributed. There is, at an average, perhaps 25 or 30 ton of kelp made in a year. In 1782, the crop was very scanty and late. Seed-time was not finished till about the beginning of June, nor harvest till about the 10th or 15th of November. Tradesmen, having meal to buy, were then in a much worse situation than the greatest part of the servants employed in husbandry.

Population.

* A plough gate is as much land as can be cultivated with one plough

Population, &c.—Souls	960
Families	208
Males	440
Females	530
The annual average of births	21
——————— deaths	17
The annual average of births about 40 years ago	25
——————— 100 years ago	35
The annual average of males born from 1778 to 1788	11
——————— females born in the ſame period	10
In ten years preceding, the annual average of males	14
——————— females	11
Seceders	80
Heritors, only 2 of them reſide in the pariſh	8
Farmers reſiding in the pariſh	20
Wrights	3
Weavers	10
Shoemakers	1
Fiſhermen	8
Poor, above	20

Expence of their maintenance about L. 50 yearly.

The decreaſe of population is owing chiefly to the monopoliſing of farms, and the introduction of two horſe ploughs.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—The men's wages was 5 d. a-day about 40 years ago; they are now from 10 d. to 1 s. The women's wages is 6 d. a-day for labouring at hay or turnip. But there are few day-labourers, moſt of the people being employed as hynds or plowmen, lot-men, &c.; all of whom are paid in grain. The lot-men threſh for the 25th boll. The plowmen receive bolls of different kinds of grain, frequently amounting in all to L. 18 or L. 20 Sterling. A

male

male domestic servant receives L. 6 or upwards, and a female L. 3 *per annum*. Forty years ago, a male servant received about L. 2 : 10 : 0, and a female L. 1 : 5 : 0 *per annum*. Beef, mutton, &c. are sold at Dunbar from 4 d. to 5 d. per lib.; a couple of fowls now costs from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d.

Fish, and Sea-Coast.—At present, only two fishing boats belonging to the parish are employed in catching lobsters, which is by far the most profitable branch of fishing; but great variety of other fish is caught, such as cod, ling, turbot, haddock, &c. which are generally sent to Dunse, Haddington, &c. It is probable that the current on this coast is stronger than formerly; for all the wrecks, about 15 or 16 in number, that have happened within these 18 years, have been driven ashore nearly about the same place. At the place where the ships are always wrecked, there is a small creek, called Sketraw Shore, which seems to be intended by nature for a harbour. The making a harbour here would be of great advantage to the trade from Leith to London; and parliamentary interest could not, perhaps, be employed better than in promoting such a scheme.

Church and Stipend.—The church was built in 1784; the manse about the year 1726, and repaired in 1788. According to a decreet pronounced in March 1790, the stipend, including the glebe, will, at an average, amount to L. 140 Sterling *per annum*. Mr Nisbet of Dirleton is patron.

Antiquities.—The remains of a chapel are to be seen on the coast. There is a small encampment on Blackcastle Hill, seemingly Danish. There are two very beautiful tumuli, on the top of which have been burial places. Near one of them is a bridge of one arch, commonly called Edirkin, said to be

a corruption for King Edward, who is ſuppoſed to have built it.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is generally dry and healthy. There is a ſpring-well, the water of which is remarkable for its lightneſs. There are two free-ſtone quarries. No coal is worked, but ſmall ſeams are viſible in different places. There is lime upon the coaſt in great abundance, with a ſmall ſeam of coal below it. The rent of cottages is from 15 to 20 ſhillings. Coal is uſed as fuel on the coaſt, peat and turf on the moors. The people are, in general, more expenſive in their mode of living than formerly. They are very humane to thoſe who have been ſhip-wrecked. There are many incloſures in the pariſh; but ſome farmers think them diſadvantageous, as they occupy too much of the high rented corn land, and harbour birds.

NUM-

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF LINTON.

By the Rev. Mr FINDLATER, *Miniſter of Newlands, formerly of Linton.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE origin of the name is uncertain. The river of Lyne, which riſes at the Cauldſtane Slaup, (a paſs over the Pentlands from Tweeddale to Weſt Lothian) runs through this pariſh, and probably Linton is ſo called from being the town on the Lyne. Linton is ſituated in the county of Tweeddale, and preſbytery of Peebles. Its contents may be about 25 ſquare miles. It is bounded on the north by the pariſhes of Mid-Calder and Kirknewton; on the eaſt by the pariſh of Pennycook; on the weſt by the pariſh of Dunſyre; and the remaining part by Dolphington, Kirkcurd, and Newlands.

Soil.—The ſoil of the hills is clayey, and they are covered with graſs, which feeds ſheep for the butcher; the ſheep, however, are ſubject to the rot. The low ground near the North Eſk is a clay ſoil on a lime-ſtone, but the land being high, is unfavourable to cropping. The remaining part of the hill ground is all covered with heath, with a ſmall mixture of graſs, and is fitter for breeding than feeding, which, in general,

neral, is the caſe with almoſt all the paſture land in the pariſh. Except on the North Eſk, the cultivated land is either a moſſy ſoil, or a ſandy loam upon a gravelly bottom, and remarkably adapted for the culture of turnip and potatoe. There are ſome lochs in the lands of Slipperfield, belonging to Mr John Carmichael of Skirling, the largeſt about a mile and an half Engliſh in circumference. They have no outlet; the ſprings ſeeming to equipoiſe the evaporation. The water is moſs water. They abound in pike and perch, but contain no eels. In a loch in Eddleſtone pariſh, in the county of Tweeddale, called the *Water Loch*, there is an outlet with a ſtream which drives a mill; at certain ſeaſons eels are caught in abundance, in creels, at the outlet. The ſtream falls into one of the Eſk waters. Quere, Do eels migrate for ſpawning to running water only, or do they go to the ſea?

Climate.—Though the climate is rainy, and the air moiſt, from the number of moſſes, yet, being well ventilated, the exhalations never ſtagnate or grow putrid, ſo as to produce diſeaſes. The high lands of Tweeddale and Lanarkſhire, are all ſubject to harveſt froſts, which often damage the crop. Theſe froſts are generally dreaded about the latter end of Auguſt and during the month of September. Rainy weather about this time generally terminates in this kind of froſt, which, in the year 1784, deſtroyed the whole barley crop in the month of Auguſt. The higheſt land is always the laſt in ſuffering by this kind of froſt; the loweſt is in greateſt danger. In a calm evening after rain this froſt is always apprehended; when it ſets in, a low white thick creeping vapour is obſerved to ariſe, after ſun-ſet, from the running waters and low lying moſſes, which gradually ſpreads to a certain diſtance, and to a certain heighth, on the lands in the neighbourhood.

Theſe

Theſe froſt miſts are obſerved to attract each other; and, wherever they reſt, they deſtroy vegetation when in a certain ſtate, or where their baleful influence is not counteracted by particular circumſtances. The half of a field contiguous to the running water or moſs is often deſtroyed, while the more remote half, on the ſame level, or part equally near, but more elevated, remains ſafe. In part of a field of potatoes in the line of the attraction of two miſts, the ſtems became black and ſoft like ſoap, while the neighbouring drill remained green and vigorous. Theſe froſt miſts manifeſt their noxious quality firſt on the potatoe ſtems, ſecond crop of clover, and peaſe. It requires a greater degree of intenſity in the froſt to hurt other crops: It ſcarcely affects turnips. The ſtems of the potatoes and clover grow black and ſoft, and fall down; the leaves, and the pods of the pea, are ſpotted with white ſpots. The potatoe is ſuppoſed to grow no more, though the roots are ſafe; the peaſe, in proportion to their greenneſs, are ſoft, wrinkled, and watery, become of the colour of a pickled olive, and acquire a diſagreeable ſweetiſh taſte: When threſhed, the froſt bitten are diſtinguiſhed from the ſound by throwing them into water; the ſound ſink, the others ſwim. A field of oats, when froſt bitten, acquires in a few days a blueiſh caſt; and barley, if early froſted, as in 1784, remains erect in the head, which acquires a rediſh brown colour, or, if later, a deadiſh whiteneſs. The kernels, when unhuſked immediately after the froſt, are wrinkled, ſoft, and watery, and, after a while, grow ſhriveled and dry. The kernel of froſted oats, even if threſhed in ſpring, when examined between the eye and the light, appears cloudy, and not of that uniform tranſparency which ſound grain poſſeſſes.

In the morning after the froſt the vegetables are ſtiffened; but

but its effects are not obſervable till after ſun-riſe. If wind ariſes through the night to prevent the miſt from ſettling, or if the next day is cloudy, and eſpecially if it rains before ſun-riſe, or if the field be ſo ſhaded by hills from the riſing ſun that the crop may be gently thawed by the increaſing heat of the atmoſphere before the ſun's rays ſhine directly on it, no danger is to be apprehended. In conformity to this experience, a ſmall field of potatoes has been known to be ſaved by ſprinkling them with well water before ſun-riſing. But this can never be executed on a large ſcale. Attempts have alſo been made, though without ſucceſs, to ſave oats and barley, by dragging ſomething over them, before ſun-riſe, to ſhake off the hoar froſt, or *ryme* or *cranreuch*, as it is called, which is depoſited wherever the miſt ſettles. This froſt affects the vegetation of corn only at a certain period of its progreſs. Peaſe are froſted however green in the grain, and the greener the more readily; they are not killed by it when hard ripe; but to this ſtate they ſeldom arrive at Linton. Barley and oats are not hurt by this froſt when hard ripe, and fit for the hook; and it is probable that they are not hurt by it even though they are ſhot, and the ear beginning to fill, as long as the juices are watery, and have not yet come to the conſiſtency of thickiſh milk. It is certainly the caſe with oats. In the year 1784, the froſt was on the 17th and 18th Auguſt. The uppermoſt grains of the oats, which always fill ſooneſt, had thick milk in them, and were froſted 4 or 5 grains down the head. The grains below theſe all ripened well. The barley, which might be about equally forward with the top grains of the oats, was totally deſtroyed. Probably the upper grains had ſheltered the under ones from the froſt, the crop being very thick and ſtrong; and this might have been the reaſon why the undermoſt grains ripened: But as a proof, above all exception, *that the froſt does not*

greatly hurt oats while the juices in the ear are watery, there were ſeveral contiguous fields ſown with late ſeed oats, whoſe beſt ripened grains were no further advanced than the undermoſt grains in the field above mentioned, and they all ripened very well, though equally expoſed to the froſt.

Dr Roebuck's experiments on oats in 1782 correſponds with this obſervation; for, even the laſt parcel he cut *was not ripe when cut*; of courſe, it may be probably conjectured, that, in the time of the froſt, none of the oats in queſtion had thick milk in the ear.

Crops cut and ſtacked before the froſt are ſafe, except peaſe, the upper ſurface of which will froſt till they be thoroughly ripe. To ſave them, it is uſual to turn the expoſed ſide downwards, to thaw gradually before ſun-riſe.

This froſt affects only low grounds, and only hardens a very thin cruſt on the ſurface of the earth. In 1782, the froſt penetrated ſeveral inches into the ground, ſo as to deſtroy the roots of the potatoes.

Diſeaſes.—A man called William Badie, or Beatie, a ſhoemaker, died a few weeks ago in Linton. About 16 or 17 years ſince, being afflicted with ſtomach complaints, contracted by drinking cold water when overheated in harveſt, he was adviſed to ſwallow ſtones to help digeſtion, after the manner of birds with muſcular ſtomachs. He was ever after afflicted with violent ſtomach complaints, and frequent vomitings, with a long train of nervous ſymptoms. He never ſuſpected that the ſtones had lodged in his ſtomach, till happening to be ſeiſed with a vomiting, lying acroſs a bed, with his head and body reclined downwards, and ſupporting himſelf

ſelf with his hands on the floor, ſeveral ſtones came up. The man was of decent character; and from his own, and his neighbours reports, there is no doubt of the fact. The largeſt ſtone was the ſize of a finger end. He threw up 13, which, being the Devil's dozen, might probably be the number ſwallowed. Latterly, his ſurgeon made him vomit in an inclined poſition, and he threw up ſand, which probably had fallen from his victuals into ſome ſack formed in the ſtomach by the weight of the ſtones. The ſtones muſt have been lodged in his ſtomach for about 16 years.

Mines, Minerals, Springs, &c.—There is white free-ſtone at Deepſyke-head and at Spittlehaugh. The former quarry ſupplies all Tweeddale. There is red free ſtone in the ridge of Broomieleas, ſupplying all Tweeddale with pavement flags.

There is limeſtone at Carlops, and Whitefield, and Spittlehaugh, afforded in proportion to their relative ſituation to the market, at 10 d. 1 s. and 1.s. 1 d. per boll of ſhells, at the hill. Two bolls of ſhells is a good loading for a one horſe cart. A boll of ſhells, when ſlacked, yields from two to three bolls of lime.

There is coal at Carlops and Coalyburn, ſold, according to ſituation, at 6 d. and 7 d. per 200 weight at the pit. The ſeams are about 4½ feet thick, including a diviſion ſtone of 18 inches.

Fullers earth is found in a ſmall ſeam below Bridgehouſe bridge over the Lyne, on the eaſt ſide of the water.

Marle is found in beds, formed ſeemingly by oozing ſprings from lime-ſtone, which encruſt or petrify moſs by depoſitions of

of lime-ſtone. In theſe beds the ſhells of the common ſnail are obſerved rotten and friable. A blue marle, of a mixed conſiſtency between ſtone and clay, is found in a ſtratum about two feet thick, above the lime rocks of Carlops and Spittlehaugh. No whin-ſtone has been diſcovered, except detached ſtones in the bed of the river.

There is a ſpring lying north of Linton village about a mile, in Mr Chatto's land, called *Heaven-aqua Well*, ſomewhat reſembling Tunbridge.

Animals, &c.—Beſides the domeſtic animals, and thoſe common to the country, the earn eagle is ſometimes, but rarely, ſeen on the heights. The golden creſted wren and the bullfinch are but lately come. The woodpecker has very lately appeared at Newhall on the North Eſk, where, probably, we ſhall ſoon have the brown ſquirrel, which has arrived already at Pennycook, from the Duke of Buccleugh's *menagerie*. In winter, the huppoe, and ſome unknown birds, ſometimes viſit us. Our migrating birds are the ſwallows, green plover, curlew, ſand lark, a ſmall wader frequenting running water, and the red-ſhank, and other two larger waders frequenting lochs; alſo the corn-craik and cuckoo; theſe appear in ſpring and leave us after midſummer. The feltfare and wild gooſe appear in winter; the woodcock comes in September or October, and ſoon leaves us.

Plantations and Woods, &c.—Any large plantations of trees in the pariſh are as yet only in their infancy. The larix ſeems to thrive in the pooreſt ſoils and moſt expoſed ſituations. Their durability in paling poſts, even when cut young, is well known. The natural wood is hazel, birch, mountain-aſh, and willows. Birch is generally found in the moſſes.

No

No oak has occurred, except once a large one in a moss near the top of Mendic Hill. The sheep prevent the growth of natural wood. The young shoots of heath, the year after it is burnt, is the great food of the sheep. If burnt in winter it dies. The time allotted by the game laws for burning in spring is too short, as heath is often too wet to burn in the limited time; but sheriffs who know country affairs fine trifling passing farmers in moderation. There is a moss plant with a white cottony head growing in mosses, which is the first spring food of the sheep. It springs in February, if the weather is fresh. It is commonly called *pull ling*. The sheep take what is above the ground tenderly in their mouths, and without biting it draw up a long white stalk.

Grazing.—There may, by a rough computation, be about 10,000 sheep grazed in the parish, 130 horses, and 460 cows. Swine are coming more and more into fashion, both among farmers and householders, for family use. Cows are from 20 to 26 stone weight, yielding from 6 to 8 Scots pints of milk per day. They are kept mostly for family use, no attention being paid to dairy farming. The breed of horses is much improved of late; particularly since the introduction of two-horse ploughs, which are generally adopted. English ploughs, with the curved moldboard and corresponding sock, are coming into more general use, except for breaking up moor and bent. Small's plough is also coming into use. A few young horses are reared from the plough mares for sale. Of late, year olds are sold from L. 6 to L. 10. The demand is greatest for the males, which, *caeteris paribus*, draw from 30 to 40 shillings more than the females. A good stallion in the neighbourhood will be bought in at L. 40 or L. 50, and yield to his master a profit of from L. 15 to L. 20 annually.

The

The ſtaple animal kept by the farmers is the ſheep, excepting a very few farms where the hills are green, and where lambs are fed for the butcher. The ſheep for ſale are hogs, *i.e.* ſheep of one year old, ſold off in June or July before they are ſhorn. They are diſpoſed of to the Highlands, or Oichil Hills in Fifeſhire, at the Linton markets. The principal of theſe markets are two; the one held invariably on the third Wedneſday of June old ſtile, the other that day week. Between twenty and thirty thouſand ſheep are generally ſold at theſe markets annually, many being brought from other pariſhes. Some of the Tweeddale ſheep are ſold at Stagſhaw, on the Engliſh ſide, and bought in by farmers to the Yorkſhire fells; whence, when older, they are ſold to grazing farms farther ſouth. The Highlanders keep what they buy for two or three years, then ſell them fat to Perth, Glaſgow, and Edinburgh, about Martinmas; a conſiderable number, too, are ſent up to England. Till of late, the great demand to the Highlands was for wedder hogs; lately, the demand was greateſt for ewe hogs for breeding. The average price for theſe year old ſheep at Linton markets, of late years, has been 9 s. a head. The ſuperannuated breeding ewes are either ſold fat at Martinmas to the butcher, at about 9 s. a head, or elſe ſold with lamb, in the month of March, to the Lothian parks at 11 s.

The duration of a breeding ewe varies, in different farms, from 4 to 7 years. The farmer, when ſmearing them at Martinmas, examines their teeth and their eyes, and from thence judges whether he ought to keep them on his farm another year. When a farmer quits his farm, the new incomer knows that it is highly dangerous to bring in a breeding ſtock which has not been bred on the farm, and generally takes the breeding ſtock on the farm at from 14 s. to 16 s. a head. Rams being

being unprofitable, the leaſt poſſible number of them is kept. From 40 to 50 ewes are generally allotted to one ram through Tweeddale, according to the poorneſs or richneſs of the paſture. An old fat breeding ewe from the hill grounds weighs from 6 to 8 pounds avoirdupoiſe per quarter, yielding from 4 to 8 pounds of Tallow.

The Tweeddale wool is in general coarſe, and ſells at preſent, if the ſheep are waſhed, at an average of 6 s. per ſtone Tron. It uſed formerly to go all to Stirling for carpets, ſhalloons, &c.; but of late it is bought much by Hawick people; part is ſent to Hawick, part to Leith, where it is ſhipped for England. Attempts have been made in Tweeddale, and in ſimilar grounds in Annandale, to improve the wool, by the introduction of Bakewell rams; but it is univerſally given up; the breed produced being, as is reported, a ſoft dull animal, always loitering in low grounds, unwilling to climb heights, and too ſpiritleſs to remove the ſnow with its feet to obtain food in winter. The chief food of the ſheep in winter is the graſs which in ſummer they reject, and allow to grow to its proper height. The common breed here is a ſhort tailed compact bodied ſheep, with black faces and legs. The ſheep are all ſmeared at Martinmas with a mixture of tar and train oil, or Orkney butter. Butter is preferred to train oil.

A ſtone and an half of butter, and 12 Scots pints of Norway tar, is reckoned, in general, the doſe for 80 old ſheep; $1\frac{1}{2}$ ſtones of butter, and 12 pints of tar, is the doſe for 50 year olds, or 60 two year olds. John Murray farmer in Buccam, in the pariſh of Galaſhiels, ſays, that when in Elibank, in Selkirkſhire, he was unſucceſsful in his competition for the premium granted for wool; he next ſeaſon ſmeared entirely with butter without tar, and eaſily gained the premium. The Highlanders

Highlanders and Yorkſhire people prefer hogs in proportion to their blackneſs, thinking they are hardy bred in high or moſſy land. This may be a reaſon of ſmearing hogs heavily. There is no getting a very ſatisfactory account of ſmearing from the farmers: Some ſay it forms the wool into a wax-cloth, keeping the ſheep warm and dry; ſome ſay the tar is neceſſary for this purpoſe; John Murray, before mentioned, apprehends the butter ſufficient for this purpoſe, and that the tar is only neceſſary to kill vermin. Some farmers keep a few ſheep perfectly unſmeared, for pettycoats and ſtockings; they ſay they have perhaps more wool; but they think the wool degenerates in quality and quantity the ſucceeding year; and even the firſt year the experiment is not fair, as they always ſelect for the purpoſe the ſtrongeſt and fatteſt ſheep of the flock. They apprehend, too, that they fail ſooner.

The greateſt improvement that has been lately introduced in ſheep farming is light ſtocking. The ſheep are better, and the riſk of death is alſo by that means diminiſhed. It is not practicable by any other means than light ſtocking, to increaſe the winter food of the ſheep through Tweeddale; the arable land bearing ſo very inconſiderable a proportion to the hill ground. Plantations, in different parts of the ſheep farms, would be of great uſe for protecting the ſheep from ſtorms; but on a 19 years leaſe, which is the uſual term, no farmer will plant. On the 57 years leaſes lately granted by the Duke of Queenſberry, farmers are planting trees for this purpoſe at their own expence. In ſome of the breeding farms in Linton, the farmer keeps a ſtock of breeding ewes; of their lambs he keeps a part, to replace the ſuperannuated ewes and rams which he annually ſells off. He ſelects the beſt for that purpoſe: He alſo keeps a portion of the next beſt lambs for ſelling as hogs next year to the Highlands. The worſt portion of

of the lambs he ſells to a ſecond claſs of farmers, who annually buy in lambs, and ſell them all again next year as hogs to the Highlanders. A third claſs of farmers have a breeding ſtock of ewes; of their lambs they keep juſt as many as are ſufficient to replace the breeding ſtock; the reſt they ſell to the ſecond claſs of farmers. A few farmers keep a ſtock of breeding ewes; they ſell all their lambs fat to the butcher, except what is neceſſary to keep up the breeding ſtock. One or two farmers who have low and improved land keep no ſheep through winter, but buy in ewes with lambs in March, ſell off the fat lambs in ſummer, and fatten the mothers on graſs, ſelling them at Martinmas, or feeding them ſtill farther on turnips.

This laſt mode of farming is in its infancy at Linton. It was introduced by James M'Dougal in Linton, a very intelligent man, who was 14 years with Mr Dawſon at Frogden, about the time he commenced his improvements, firſt as a ſervant and then as an overſeer. He has been about 12 years in a L. 50 farm at Linton. Mr Laurence Tweedie, lately come to the farm of Slipperfield near Linton, is adopting his mode of culture. He has an extenſive ſheep farm of the firſt deſcription, but brings down his ſuperannuated breeding ſtock to be fed off on turnips on his low lands. James M'Dougal buys in his ewes in March with lamb; feeds off the lambs on hill ground which has been laid down with white clover. The ewes which have miſſed lamb, and thoſe whoſe lambs were firſt ſold off, as they grow fat on the graſs, are ſold at Martinmas; the reſt are brought down to the turnip, and ſold about the middle of January. Before he practiſed feeding on the turnip, he ſold all off at Martinmas, and reckoned himſelf well paid if he cleared 5 s. a-head for the lambs, and loſt nothing by the ewes. The turnip im-

proves the ewes about 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. a-head, which is a profit of L. 2 : 10 : 0, or L. 3, from the acre of turnip, an acre feeding a ſcore, beſides the advantage of the dung and paddling on a light ſandy ſoil. The ſheep are incloſed in a web of net ſtretched on a paling, their horns are ſawn off, in freſh weather, without injury to the animal; in wet weather they are allowed to go at large. They thrive faſter when at large; but the turnip are ſooner conſumed, as they run to the freſh ones, and leave thoſe that are half eaten. Turnip ſucceeds beſt at Linton when ſown in the latter end of May.

The principal diſeaſes of ſheep are, 1ſt, Iliac paſſion or ſickneſs. It attacks the fatteſt, when firſt let down to the ſtubbles, and ground allotted for their winter proviſion: It is cured, when taken in time, by bleeding and purging. Turnips, or clover ſtubble, are ſaid to cure it; probably by occaſioning a looſeneſs. 2d, A diarrhœa, which attacks them in ſpring, when the new graſs ſprings quickly, after previous ſtarving in a hard winter. 3d, Palſy, called *trembling*, or *thorter ill*, to which thoſe fed on certain lands are peculiarly ſubject. 4th, The rot, indiſcriminately applied to conſumption of lungs or liver: To this they are moſt ſubject in moiſt ſoft land. Rotten ewes have in ſpring a goiter like the inhabitants of the Alps under the lower jaw, and are called *poked*, *i. e.* pouched ewes. 5th, The ſturdy, or water in the head: The ſcull grows ſoft above where the water is lodged; and they are ſometimes cured by a trepan, performed by a herd's knife. 6th, Tup lambs are apt to die of caſtration, particularly if it is performed in hot cloſe weather, and eſpecially if it thunders within two or three days. The operation is delayed as long as can be riſked for the ſummer heat, to give them a better creſt.

When

When the lambs are weaned, the ewes are milked for a longer or ſhorter time, according to the richneſs of the paſture; and the milk, mixed with the cow milk of the farm, is made into cheeſe, which ſells at about 6 s. per ſtone Tron. Milking, however, is much diſuſed.

The names of ſheep are as follow:
1ſt, Ewe, wedder, tup, lambs, until they are ſmeared.
2d, Ewe, wedder, tup, hogs, until they are ſhorn.
3d, Gimmers, dummons, tups, until they are ſhorn.
4th, Old ewes, wedders, tups.

An intelligent herd knows all his ſheep from perſonal acquaintance, called *head mark*, and can ſwear to the identity of a ſheep as he could to that of a fellow ſervant. The artificial mark made with a hot iron on the noſe, or with a knife on the ears, he conſiders as a very equivocal mark of identity, like the cut or colour of a cot in the human ſpecies.

Corn Farming.—The different ſpecies of oats ſown at Linton are ranked as follows, according to their different degrees of earlineſs: 1ſt, Magbiehill oats, or barley oats, introduced by Mr William Montgomery of Magbiehill. 2d, Carnwath oats from the moors of Carnwath: They are 14 days latter than the Magbiehill. 3d, Late ſeed oats from Tweedſide, 10 or 14 days latter than the Carnwath oats. They will grow on worſe ſoil than the Magbiehill, but require ſtronger ſoil than the Carnwath. A prejudice long prevailed, but is now given up, that the meal of theſe was better than that of the Magbiehill.

The Lothian pea does not ripen in any year at Linton. The Peebles grey pea ripens ſometimes if ſown in March.

There

There is a Magbiehill pea, procured by the Lord Chief Baron's father. The peaſe crop is always precarious at Linton.

The land under the plough in Linton pariſh may amount to 700 or 800 acres, of which two-thirds may be outfield *.

The outfield is teathed by folding the black cattle in ſummer over night, to keep them from the corns, and by folding the ewes when they are milked. The folds are ſometimes limed in October, after the cattle are houſed: The land is then ploughed; the lime falls to the bottom of the furrow, but is brought up again by ploughing deeper next ſeaſon. Three crops of oats is reckoned moderate cropping after a fold. On new limed folds ſome farmers take four oat crops, then a crop of peaſe, which will grow on outfield after lime, though not otherwiſe, then another crop of oats: The land is then left to gather ſod as nature ſhall direct. Twenty bolls of ſhells, or at moſt twenty-four, is the doſe for an acre.

The croft land † is variouſly treated. The approved rotation introduced by James M'Dougal is a rotation of four, viz. turnips with dung; then barley or Magbiehill oats ſown with graſſes; then a crop of hay; then Magbiehill oats. If the turnips are eaten on the field by ſheep, this ſtill farther enriches the land; ſo that, in all probability, at the next going over, half the dung might be ſufficient to raiſe a good turnip crop, and ſet the rotation agoing. The ſpare dung might be employed in converting ſome of the outfield into croft. Under this rotation of four, potatoes are raiſed in ſtripes through the turnip field; ſo that the land is dunged and paddled by the ſheep which eat the turnip.

Lint

* That is, the open or unincloſed field.
† That is incloſed fields.

Lint is ſeldom ſown, and only for family uſe. It is worth 10 or 11 ſhillings per ſtone when fit for the heckler. Four ſtone from the peck is reckoned a good crop. Nobody will riſk the ſowing it extenſively, except with the view of gambling for the Truſtees premium.

Population.—The population of Linton, taken at a viſitation in 1777.

Inhabited houſes by ſeparate families in the village	102
Ditto in the country	134
Total	236
Souls in the village	353
Ditto in the country	650
Total	1003
Males	490
Females	513

The ſtate of their ages.

Above 70	23
Between 70 and 50	146
——— 50 and 20	408
——— 20 and 10	224
Under 10	202
Number of marriages	162
The whole of the ſeceders (all Burgers) including young children of ſeceding parents	400

There is no regiſter of burials or marriages. The regiſter of baptiſms is not very accurate: A ſhilling is paid for regiſtering, and poor people have an intereſt in the omiſſion.

Annual

Annual average of baptisms from 1736 till 1759, both inclusive, - - - - - 21$\frac{4}{5}$
From 1759 till 1766 is very irregular.
From 1766 till 1789, both inclusive, is - 26$\frac{2}{3}$

Population in 1791.

Inhabited houses in the village of Linton -	59
——— of Blyth - -	12
——— country part - -	107
Total inhabited houses in the parish - -	178

	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Inhabitants in Linton -	149	202	351
——— in Blyth -	26	28	54
——— in the country -	274	249	523
Total inhabitants in the parish -		-	928
Above 70 years old -		-	29
Between 50 and 70 -		-	146
Between 20 and 50 -		-	349
Between 10 and 20 -		-	186
Under 10 years old - - - - -			218

The depopulation seems to be owing to sheep farms being rented to people who live at a distance; the houses of these farms being inhabited only by the herds instead of the farmer's family. Another circumstance must be attended to, viz. that, in 1777, Sir William Montgomery was making large improvements on his estate; but at present there are fewer labourers in the neighbourhood; and it is observable, that the greatest number of empty houses are near Sir William Montgomery's estate. Lord Hyndford also carried on many improvements, but at his death these improvements ceased.

The

The people are either farmers, or mechanics and ſhop-keepers; generally one, and ſometimes two ſurgeons; formerly an exciſeman; lead carters and carriers; no lawyers. Two or three looms work cotton cloth independently, or linen for the manufacturers in Edinburgh, or even Glaſgow. There are about two dozen of looms in the village.

In the memory of old people, the mode of living is much altered. The great expence formerly was in drinking two-penny. The farmers ate no fleſh but what died of itſelf; onions was a common reliſh to their bread. Their clothes were homeſpun and coarſe. More fleſh is now conſumed even by cottagers, than formerly by farmers.

The ſituation of every claſs of people is much improved. Even within theſe few years labourers wages are conſiderably raiſed. A good ploughman gets L. 6, and meat in the houſe; or 6½ bolls of meal, and L. 1 : 6 : 0 annually, inſtead of meat. If he marries he gets a houſe, for which his wife ſhears all harveſt with his maſter, who drives in her fuel, and gives her land for lint or potatoes. She generally gets offalls of milk and whey, &c. if ſhe is liked. A good ſervant maid has L. 3 *per annum.*

Day labourers have 8 d. in ſummer and 6 d. in winter, with victuals; women at out-work 3 d. but oftner 4 d. with victuals. In harveſt, men get 10 d. women 8 d. with victuals. Taylors 6 d. and victuals. Maſons and joiners are over-proportioned to other labourers, from the demand to Edinburgh, and get 1 s. with victuals. Few enliſt, as they have plenty of employment at home. Some ſix or eight may have emigrated to America; they write flattering accounts to their friends, but complain of their diſtance from religious ordinances.

ordinances. Except in cases of occasional distress, from dearth, sickness, or old age, a stout labourer or ploughman, with an economical wife, can bring up a family of six children without aid from the public.

Rent, Church, &c.—The heritors of the parish, excepting trifling feuers, are 12 in number, of which only one has a domicile, where he occasionally resides.

The land rent may be - - -	L. 2350
The rent from coal and lime - - -	150
The glebe and stipend may be worth - -	85

The present minister is Alexander Forrester, a batchelor, who succeeded in 1790. The manse was rebuilt in 1779, the church in 1782.

The seceders are, Burgers - - -	339
——— Antiburgers - -	2
——— Relief - - -	35
In all	376

There are no other religious sectaries in the parish.

Poor.—There are no poors rates in the parish. They are supported by collections at the church doors, by dues at proclamations, and dues for mort-cloths kept by the kirk-session. In 1773, a legacy of L. 100 was left to the poor; before that they had one of L. 25. This stock is at interest at 5 *per cent.* In 1783, the treasurer had above the annual income a balance, which was then expended, with some charitable collections and private donations, amounting to near L. 30. In that year the session did not buy meal and retail it at an under rate, but gave their contributions in money. In other parishes, where the kirk-session bought and retailed meal

meal at an under rate, the retail trade was knocked up, and tradesmen who were not on their list had to travel to Linton for meal. The session never admitted any poor to regular pensions; but the treasurer, who was the minister, gave occasional supply, by the advice of discreet people in the parish.

Average of the annual expences of supporting the poor in Linton.

For 4 years previous to 1773, when L. 100 was left them, was - - - - -	L. 10	18	8
From 1773, for 8 years, annual expence	16	19	3
From Martinmas 1782 till Martinmas 1785, the expence is nearly the same each year	31	0	0½
From June 1785 till June 1790 - -	18	17	10

From the above may be deduced about L. 1 : 4 : 0, which is annually expended in fees to the session-clerk, beadle, and presbytery and synod clerks, and officers.

In 1782—3, people were sometimes discovered living on nettles, or potatoes, without meal, and were relieved; particularly one poor householder, a day labourer, who was reported to the minister as sick and starving. He was found exhausted with hunger; and said, that he felt an *o'ercasting at his heart, and his lights were ay ready to lose the fluff.* Some Port wine, and a supply of meal, put him in heart, and made him fit for work. The people lived then mostly on very wholesome white pease, brought from Leith.

Parochial School.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 10, with a house and garden valued at L. 2 *per annum.* The scholars seldom exceed 40 summer and winter. The prices for teach-

ing are 1 s. 2 d. per quarter for Engliſh; 1 s. 6 d. for arithmetic, writing, and Latin. On account of the vacation in harveſt, the ſchoolmaſter's year is only 3 quarters. L. 20 *per annum* may be the value of his office.

Price of Proviſions.—Lamb 2½ d. per pound; mutton 3 d. to 3½ d.; beef 3 d. to 3½ d.; pork 3½ d. to 4 d.; ducklings 7 d. or 8 d. a-piece; chickens 3 d. a-piece; hens for the ſpit 11 d.; butter 8 d.; ſkimmed cow milk cheeſe 2½ d.; ewe milk cheeſe 5 d. per Tron pound; ſweet milk per Scots pint 2 d.; ſkimmed milk ½ d.

Roads.—An act was got for the Linton and Noblehouſe roads from Edinburgh to Moffat, about 1756. They are made, and now upheld, at 50 ſhillings per mile, which is all the money that can be allowed above paying the intereſt of borrowed money, and without any ſinking fund to extinguiſh the principal. Statute labour is commuted, with advantage, at 4 d. for a day's work of a man.

Antiquities.—When the old church was taken down in 1781 or 1782, it appeared to have been built of the ſtones of an older one. Carved free ſtones were found in the middle of the wall, repreſenting in baſſo relievo a crucifix erect, ſupported by a pair of wool ſhears lying acroſs beneath, but no motto.

In a deep ſequeſtered glen in the lands of Carlops, at the junction of two deep glens which communicate with the firſt one, ſtands a projecting rock of free-ſtone, forming a natural nich, with a projecting canopy. It is called Harbour Craig. This, it is ſaid, was a retreat of conventiclers under Charles II. A great number of initials are carved rudely in the rock, and dates

dates correſponding to the tradition. Near it is the moor called Harlaimuir, probably from ſome ſkirmiſh, of which there is no tradition. Near Spittlehaugh is a park called Chapelhill; there are no remains nor tradition of a building; but ſtone coffins have been found in the park, and in ſeveral parts of the pariſh. A Roman urn was found in a cairn at Garwaldfoot, by the late General John Douglas.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The village of Linton ſeems adapted for a woollen manufacture of coarſe goods. The Lyne would drive conſiderable weighty machinery. Lime is abundant; coal is not dear; and every houſe in the village has a privilege of cutting peat *ad libitum* from the common moſſes, which, all expences included, may be put into the winter ſtack at 8 d. the ſingle horſe cart.

NUM-

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF NEWLANDS.

By the Rev. Mr FINDLATER.

Situation, Soil, &c.

NEWLANDS is situated in the shire of Tweeddale and presbytery of Peebles. It is bounded by the parishes of Linton, Lyne, Kirkhurd, Stobo, Eddlestone, and Pennycook. The face of the parish is diversified with hills and valleys. The hills are in general clayey, more or less mixed with stones. The arable land is in general a clay loam, upon a close impervious tilly bottom. It is liable to poach in winter, and therefore not fit for turnip sheep feeding.

There is scarcely any heath in the parish. The pastures are all green; and white clover abounds where the land has been limed. Trees thrive every where, and thorn hedges grow very well. In high exposed situations, on spouty clay soil, the oak seems to thrive better than any other white wood usually planted among evergreens, as on a hill top above Romanno. From the Wheam to Moothill bridge, the land is all enclosed and well wooded. Larix and other firs of a large size are to be seen at Lamancha and Wheam: At the latter, silver fir was lately cut which afforded planks of 27 inches.

Springs,

Springs, Mines, and Minerals.—Chalybeate ſprings abound every where. There is red free-ſtone in Broomylees; and from Romanno down the Lyne whin-ſtone abounds. From Noblehouſe to Wheam the hills abound in iron-ore and iron-ſtone, on which trials have been made, but hitherto without ſucceſs. At Wheam, Lamancha, and Maghiehill, there is lime and coal. About that end of the pariſh there are alſo ochres, red and yellow, veins of manganeſe, and Stourbridge clay. A manufactory for converting ochre into paints is carried on by the Honourable Captain Cochrane at Lamancha.

Farming.—The whole land in tillage may be 1300 Scots acres, of which the outfield may probably be only one-half or three-fifths. Ploughing is moſtly performed by four horſes; in the lighter ſoil by two. At Scotſtown, two ſtout oxen are trained to plough, yoked like horſes, and ſeem to anſwer very well.

There may be 230 horſes, young and old, in the pariſh; 600 cows, conſiſting of dairy cows, and young ones coming up to replace the old; beſides about 100 more fed on fattening graſs, or reared on coarſe breeding ground; and 3000 ſheep. Young horſes are bred for ſale from the plough mares.

Almoſt the firſt dairy farming in Tweeddale was begun in Weſter Deanſhouſes, by Thomas Stevenſon, the preſent tenant. The farm lies on the oppoſite ſide of the hill from Wheam. The farmer had the advantage of a houſe fitted up for himſelf by the Lord Chief Baron, when Sheriff of Peebles, with more conveniencies than uſual for farm houſes. Tempted by theſe advantages, and the vicinity to Edinburgh, the farmer turned his attention to cows, and found the ſcheme

ſcheme profitable. His example was ſoon followed; and except in the ſheep farms, all the farmers pay either the whole, or a conſiderable part of their rent, by their milk cows. The produce of a cow may be, at a medium, L. 3:10:0, or, where very particular attention is paid, L. 4:10:0. The cows are, at an average, from 26 to 30 ſtones weight. The cows being generally houſed, their dung is carried to crofts in the vicinity, which occaſions the proportion of outfield to croftland to be leſs here than in the neighbouring pariſh of Linton.

The ſheep are all ſold fat; lambs at about 6 s. a-piece; old breeding ewes, at Martinmas, about 11 s.; the wool about 1 s. per ſtone dearer than at Linton. Scarcely any ewe milk cheeſe is made for ſale in the pariſh.

Population.—From a viſitation of the pariſh, begun 13th July, and finiſhed 2d September, 1790, it appears that the number of inhabited houſes poſſeſſed by ſeparate families, is - - - - - 182

The number of males are - - -	448
——————— females - - -	443
Total - - - -	891

State of their ages.

Under 100 and above 70 - - -	39
Under 70 and above 50 - - -	103
Under 50 and above 20 - -	333
Under 20 and above 10 - - -	195
Under 10 - - - -	220
Beſides one man who ſays he is 101 - -	1
Proportion of children to a marriage - -	$2\frac{14}{17}$
Batchellors above 20 - - - -	70

The

The annual average of births from 1719 till 1749, both included - - - - - $26\frac{9}{16}$
From 1770 till 1790, both included - - 24
The inhabitants are compoſed of farmers, quarriers, other labourers, and a few of the moſt indiſpenſible mechanics. There are 13 heritors, of whom 5 reſide.

Wages, and Prices of Proviſions.—Nearly the ſame as was mentioned in the foregoing pariſh of Linton.

Rent.—The groſs rent of the pariſh is - L. 2500
From lime and coal about - - 100

Church, &c.—The value of the glebe and ſtipend is L. 115. The preſent miniſter, Charles Findlater batchellor, ſucceeded Dr James Moffat in June 1790. The manſe was built 30 or 40 years ago, and the church was then repaired. The manſe has received ſeveral additions and repairs within the laſt ten years.

Poor.—The poor are ſupported from a ſtock of L. 80, ſecured on a bond of the truſtees for the roads at 5 *per cent.* and from voluntary contributions, and dues for proclamation and funerals, without poors rates. The annual average expence of the poor, from July 1773 till July 1782, L. 12 2 $4\frac{1}{2}$
From July 1782 till July 1790, - - 21 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$
The difference from year to year in the laſt period is inconſiderable: The L. 80 ſtock having been got within that period, the poor were probably more liberally treated. In 1782—3, meal was bought in by the ſeſſion, and ſold at an under rate. Some heritors maintained all the poor on their own lands. The roads in Newlands are under the ſame act as in Linton, and ſtatute labour commuted at the ſame rates.

Miſcellaneous

Miscellaneous Observations.—Drochil Castle, at the confluence of the Terth with the Lyne, was built by Morton, Regent of Scotland. He was beheaded before it was finished.

In some parts of this parish the lands are thirled to mills, to the extent of the sixteenth of all the oats raised; horse corn, and the seed sown on the farm, only excepted. So heavy a thirlage leads the farmer sometimes to sow other grain, when, if it were not for the thirlage, oats would be the more profitable crop.

NUM.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF KIRKMAIDEN.

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT CALLANDER.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THIS parish is in the county of Wigton, presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway. It is bounded on the north by Stonnykirk parish; from which, to the southermost point, or the Mull of Galloway, it is about 10 miles long; on the west it is bounded by the Irish Sea; on the east by the Bay of Glenluce; and is about 2 miles broad. The general appearance of the parish is hilly. Most of the flat grounds produce good crops of corn.

Bays, &c.—Mary-Port, thought to be called so in honour of the Virgin Mary, is a small bay on the eastern shore, which is thought a safe anchoring place when the wind blows from the west. But Drumore, where ships of burden frequently put in, in bad weather, is the safest of any in the parish. Besides these there are Curgie and Kilstay Bay. There was once a pier at the Bay of Port Nessock; but it is now in ruins. This would be a commodious place for shipping, if a good harbour were built. Ships anchor with safety when the weather is stormy from the east. On this shore, towards the south, in the warm season of the year, there is a va-

riety of marine plants growing at the foot, and on the cliffs of the rocks. There is a sea weed, of which a considerable quantity of kelp is made. Samphire grows in considerable plenty, and is gathered for pickling. In going from West Tarbert to the point of Mull, there rises a very bold and elevated coast. It is about the extent of a mile, and projects itself as the boundary between the Irish Sea and the Bay of Luce. In a high westerly wind, a prodigious swell and weight of sea rolls around that point. It is awfully grand. Here the sea has formed caverns, which are rendered dreadful by a setting in tide and a strong westerly wind. The noise is like loud claps of thunder. On the extremity of the point in a fine day, there is a charming prospect of the north of England, Isle of Man, Ireland, &c. Ships pass and repass this point from England, Ireland, and the west of Scotland. There have been several wrecks. It seems to be a proper situation for a light-house. There is abundance of fish every where on the coast, of good quality and great variety. The shell-fish, oysters and lobsters, are very good of their kind.

Produce, &c.—This parish abounds in corn and cattle. Potatoes and other vegetables are plentiful. The farmers lay their account with paying one half of their rent by the sale of cattle, and the other half by corn. Barley and oats thrive in this soil and climate, and their quantity is considerable. The farmers export annually between 200 and 300 bolls, Linlithgow measure. The boll of barley sells this year (1790) at 13 s.; oats at 10 s. 6 d. per boll. The Winchester bushel of barley will weigh, at an average, about 46 or 47 lbs. English. The farmers are industrious, and are making improvements, by liming, &c. The rent of any farm does not exceed L. 150 *per annum*. A farm of the best ground

in

in the parish was lately let at 17 s. per acre. The rental of the parish is about L. 2600 *per annum.*

Population.—Annual average of births, from 1716 to 1726; 27

—— —— —— —— marriages - 5

—— —— —— —— deaths - 21

—— —— —— —— births, from 1750 till 1760 - - - - - 28

—— —— —— —— marriages - 4

—— —— —— —— deaths - - 15

—— —— —— —— births, from 1760 till 1770 - - - - - - 24

—— —— —— —— marriages, nearly 6

—— —— —— —— deaths - 17

—— —— —— —— births, from 1770 till 1780 - - - - - - 28

—— —— —— —— marriages, nearly 6

—— —— —— —— deaths - - 14

—— —— —— —— births, from 1780 till 1790, nearly - - -- - 40

—— —— —— —— marriages - 8

—— —— —— —— deaths - - 20

In 1717, nearly 37 died of the small-pox. In 1721, 46 died, mostly of fevers. In 1725, there were 43 who died, mostly of the small-pox. In 1785, 47 died, mostly of an epidemical fever. The return of the population to Dr Webster was 1051. In 1773, there were 212 families, and 900 persons above 6 years of age. At present (1790) the number of inhabitants is 1380, and of families 285.

Church, School, &c.—The remains of the old church is on the

the farm of the Mull. It was ſuppoſed to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The preſent one is more centrical, and was built A. D. 1633. The Earl of Stair is patron. There are two other heritors; but only one of them reſides. The ſtipend has not yet been augmented, and is only 55 l. 10 s. without any victual. The glebe is conſiderably ſhort of being legal. At the public ſchool, Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, and a little Latin, are taught. The ſalary is 100 merks, and L. 2 : 8 : 0 Sterling, for educating 12 poor boys, out of a mortified fund. Engliſh is taught at 1 s. the quarter; writing and arithmetic at 1 s. 6 d. With the emoluments of precentor and ſeſſion-clerk, the income will not exceed L. 17 or L. 18 Sterling. Near the northern extremity of the pariſh is another ſchool; the ſalary about a guinea, and L. 1 : 12 : 0 Sterling for teaching 8 poor boys, out of the ſame mortified fund. There is generally a third ſchool, without ſalary, in winter, at the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh. In both theſe laſt, education is at 1 s. the quarter; and the maſters have the privilege of going about with the ſcholars, and lodging with their parents. The number of the ſcholars at the three ſchools, taken together, may be about 120.

Poor.—The poor belonging to this pariſh are well provided. Beſides the ordinary collections, there are the following funds. Mr Andrew M'Murray merchant in London left L. 100, the yearly intereſt of which is to be applied to the benefit of the ſchoolmaſter, for educating 20 poor boys, natives of this pariſh. The late Andrew M'Dowal, Eſq; Lord Bankton, one of the Judges of the Court of Seſſion, left to the poor of this pariſh L. 100. The yearly intereſt is divided among them. The late William Adair, Eſq; of Flixton, left to the poor L. 400, 3 *per cent.* conſol. annuity. Theſe three

three gentlemen were born in this parish, and have left a memorial worthy of record.

Price of Labour and Provisions, &c.—Servants wages have risen a third within these few years. Female servants who got 20 s. per half year now get 30 s. or more; male servants, who formerly got L. 2, or L. 2 : 10 : 0 per half year, now get L. 3 : 3 : 0, or L. 3 : 10 : 0; some get L. 4. A day-labourer's wages is 6 d. with, and 10 d. or 1 s. without victuals. The price of poultry is pretty reasonable; butcher meat is 2½d. per lb. when plentiful; when scarce, it rises considerably. There is no market nearer than Stranraer. The ale-houses in this parish were numerous till of late; but the new regulation of licensing the houses of persons of a fair character, it is to be hoped, will be attended with the happiest consequences. There are three of these houses licensed in this parish.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is plenty of whin-stone in the parish. The slate quarries are thought valuable, if properly wrought. A good deal of the slate is sent to market. There are several caves, curiosities of their kind; in one of them there is a petrifying water, which drops from the roof. In another on the eastern shore, according to tradition, a hermit lived. The fuel here is peat and turf; and these are scarce, as much of the moor ground has been converted into arable land. The winter is generally moderate. The air is reckoned very wholesome. More flax is raised than formerly; and the ground is proper for it. A lint-mill erected in the parish would be a farther encouragement. The farmers bring their lime from Whitehaven or Ireland, and pay 1 s. 2 d. per Carlisle bushel, which is three Winchester bushels. The trustees are making every exertion to put the high-

high-roads in good order. The fund arises from every house-holder, except the poor, paying 1 s. 8 d. a-year, and every farm 15 s. for the 100 pounds Scots valuation. Plantations of trees do not thrive well here; the keen air blowing from the sea checking their growth.

NUM-

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF TINWALD.

By the Rev. Mr JAMES LAURIE.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

TINWALD, ſuppoſed to be derived from the Gaelic, and ſignifying the *harbour*, or from the Saxon, the *houſe in a wood*, is ſituated in the county, ſynod, and preſbytery of Dumfries. Trailflat, probably too of Gaelic extraction, and ſignifying a *ſloping wet ſide*, was joined to Tinwald in 1650. The form of theſe united pariſhes is nearly an oblong of about 6 miles by 4. The pariſh of Kirkmahoe is the boundary on the north and north-weſt; Dumfries and Fortherwald on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt; Kirkmichael and Lochmaben on the eaſt and ſouth eaſt. The water of Ae ſeparates the pariſh from Kirkmichael. It is a pleaſant ſtream, abounding in trout, and ſea-fiſh in their ſeaſon. It falls into Annan a little above Lochmaben. The pariſh is ſeparated from Kirkmahoe and Dumfries on the weſt and ſouth-weſt by a ſmall ſtream called Lochar, which, about a quarter of a mile below this, enters into an extenſive moſs, called Lochar Moſs, 11 or 12 miles in length, and in ſome places 3 in breadth. It ſupplies the inhabitants of Dumfries, and the ſurrounding neighbourhood, with fuel. There was a ſcheme, about 30 years ago, to cut a canal from Solway Frith to

Lochar-

Lochar-bridge at the head of this moſs. There is only a fall of 14 feet from it to the ſea. The eſtimate of the expence is ſaid to have been L. 10,000. Beſides the benefit arifing from a communication with the ſea, the greateſt part of this extenſive moraſs would have been rendered arable, or fine meadow ground. In its preſent ſtate, indeed, there are conſiderable tracts of excellent meadow along the banks of rivulets which run into it from the high grounds on all ſides. There are likewiſe ſeveral good farms in different places on the higher parts of the moſs, on both ſides of Lochar, which divides it nearly into two equal parts. There is a tradition, univerſally credited, that the tide flowed up this whole tract above the higheſt bridge in the neighbourhood. In the bottom of the moſs ſea-mud is found; and the banks are evidently compoſed of ſea-ſand. A few years ago, a canoe of conſiderable ſize, and in perfect preſervation, was found by a farmer, when digging peats, 4 or 5 feet below the ſurface, about 4 miles above the preſent flood-mark; but it was deſtroyed before any Antiquarians had heard of it. Near the ſame part of the moſs, and about the ſame depth, a gentleman found a veſſel of mixed metal, containing about an Engliſh quart, ſuppoſed by ſome to be a Roman *modius*, and by others to be of much greater antiquity, as the Phoenicians, according to tradition, traded with the natives for tin, ſeveral hundred years before the Romans had diſcovered the iſland. The veſſel is ſtill preſerved. Antiquities of various kinds are found in every part of this moſs where peats are dug, even near its head, ſuch as anchors, oars, &c.; ſo that there is no doubt of its having been navigable near a mile above the higheſt bridge, and fully 12 miles above the preſent flood mark. Near the manſe there is a narrow gut, between two ſandy hillocks, called Collyveat, ſuppoſed to be a corruption of Collin's boat, where it is thought there was a ferry, which indeed

indeed would be very neceſſary, on the ſuppoſition of the tide flowing there. Lochar, after a courſe of 11 or 12 miles below this, falls into the Solway Frith. It abounds with pike. The moſt of this pariſh is arable. The ſouthern part is much more fertile than that which lies towards the north and eaſt; and the harveſt, in general, is three or four weeks earlier. The ſouthern part is of a deep dry loamy ſoil, and produces wheat, barley, and oats, of the beſt quality. The north-eaſt part produces all theſe, though of an inferior quality, the ſoil being moſtly wet, and lying on a bed of till. A gentle riſing ridge, running from north to ſouth, divides the united pariſh.

Air and Diſtempers.—The air, in general, is dry, and reckoned healthy. There have been no prevalent diſtempers during theſe laſt 30 years. The meaſles are ſometimes fatal, eſpecially to adults; but they ſeldom appear above once in 10 or 12 years. The ſmall-pox was juſtly dreaded about 20 years ago; but, as innoculation is now generally adopted, that diſeaſe is become leſs fatal.

Agriculture, Sheep, &c.—Agriculture was in a very imperfect ſtate previous to 1762. Potatoes of a proper kind, and the planting of them with the plough in drill rows, was introduced after this period, as well as the cultivation of clover and rye-graſs. Lime and manure were unknown, except on a few acres of what is called *croft-land*, which was never out of crop. Every farm, except graſs ones, of between L 30 and L. 40 of yearly rent, may be ſtated as raiſing 2 acres of wheat, 4 of barley, about 14 or 15 of oats, and 2 of potatoes. Rye is not much cultivated here, as it is thought to be a robbing crop. The raiſing of turnip is found to be beneficial, and has increaſed greatly within theſe two years. The far-

mers are also beginning to raise cabbage. They generally lay out their wheat and barley fields with clover and rye-grass, which produce excellent crops. They in general begin to sow oats about the 10th of March, barley in the end of April or beginning of May, and wheat in the month of October. They reap their wheat and barley about the middle of August; the oat crop immediately succeeds; and in good years the harvest is concluded in the southern part of the parish before the end of September. The average rent of the best arable land, except three farms, is from 15 s. to L. 1 : 3 : 0 per acre; meadow 1 l. 1 s.; pasturage, not in tillage, though arable, 3 s. and 4 s.; inferior arable from 5 s. to 10 s. The average size of farms, excluding the three large ones already mentioned, is about 100 acres. There are few inclosures in the parish, but the people are very much convinced of their utility. Since the commencement of the new leases, land, formerly uncultivated, has been greatly improved. The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but annually exports considerable quantities of wheat, barley, oats, oatmeal, and potatoes, of the best kind. The farmers, in general, have a very fine breed of cattle, rather above the middle size. Tinwald parks and shaws, consisting of about 1500 acres, are remarkable for producing the best fat cattle and sheep in this part of the country. There are about 60 or 70 score of sheep in the parish. Of late, an attempt has been made to improve the breed, for the sake of the wool, part of which is now sold at 14 or 15 shillings per stone, though, formerly, 7 or 8 shillings was the common price. A few of the Spanish sheep have been procured, and some of the Shetland kind are wanted. The excellent pasture here has hitherto been found to improve greatly every kind that has been put upon it. Should the spirit of improving the wool become general, it would be a source of immense wealth

to

to the kingdom, and prevent our being ſubjected to the caprice of a foreign power for this important article. The rental of the pariſh is about L. 2559.

Population.—The inhabitants were more numerous many years ago, by ſome hundreds, than at preſent; ten or more tenants ſometimes being turned out with their cottagers to make way for one. In ſome inſtances, only the herdſman is retained in the farm. By the ſtate of the population given to Dr Webſter, the number was 795. The inhabitants at preſent amount to 850. The population is increaſed about 20 ſince 1785.

Males	419
Females	431
Married	152
Average of children from a marriage between	5 or 6
Children under 8 years of age	133
Heritors	3
Farmers	55
Cart and plough wrights	3
Wheelwrights	1
Maſons	2
Blackſmiths	4
Weavers	9
Shoemakers	4
Taylors	4
Seceders	21
Roman Catholic families	1
Inhabited houſes	180

The proportion of the annual births and deaths, is 11 or 12 to 7.

Poor.

Poor.—The number of the poor in this parish varies from 14 to 20. They are maintained by the weekly contribution, which is about L. 15 *per annum*, and from a fund of L. 140, mortified by several individuals for that purpose. There is no instance of any of them going out of the parish; and they are seldom troublesome to the inhabitants.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—The ordinary wages for labourers in husbandry is 1 s. without, or 8 d. with victuals. A married man prefers the shilling. Their families are generally supported dececently. None of them are known to be in want, or even to receive charity. Carpenters, bricklayers, and masons, have from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 10 d. without victuals; taylors 8d. with victuals; male servants from L. 6:10 to L. 10 and more *per annum;* maid servants from L. 2:10 to L. 4. The present price of beef is from 3 s. 6 d. to 5 s. 6 d. per stone; veal is between 3 d. and 4 d. per lb.; mutton from 3 d. to 5 d.; lamb about 3 d; pork 3 d. and 4 d. The price of a duck is from 8 d. to 1 s.; of a goose 1 s. 10 d.; chickens are 6 d. and 8 d. per pair; butter from 7 d. to 11 d. per lb; common cheese from 3 d. to 4 d. The Carlisle bushel, or 3 Winchester bushels of wheat, sells from 16 s. to L. 1:1:0; barley from 2 s. to 3 s. per Winchester bushel, and sometimes more; oats from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. and often more; oat meal from 1 s. to 2 s. 4 d. per stone. The price of labour and provisions is nearly doubled within these last 30 years.

Church and Stipend.—The church of Tinwald was rebuilt in 1763. The manse was built in 1720, but has been several times repaired. New offices with slate roofs were built about 12 years ago; and the whole repaired in 1790. The stipend is L. 77:4:0. The glebe consists of 15 acres, and, taken along

along with the manſe and offices, may be rated at between L. 15 and L. 20. The King is patron of the old pariſh of Trailflat, and the Duke of Queenſberry of Tinwald.

Antiquities.—A branch of the Roman road from Brunſwark runs through the pariſhes of Dryſdale and Lochmaben, enters the old pariſh of Trailflat, and paſſes by Amisfield houſe, where there are very diſtinct traces of an ancient *caſtellum* This road terminates in the pariſh of Kirkmahoe, at the ſmall village of Dunſcore. There are alſo very diſtinct traces of a Britiſh fort on the top of Barſell Hill, about a mile from the church.

Eminent Men.—The famous Paterſon, who, it is ſaid, planned the Darien ſcheme, the Bank of England, &c. was born at Skipmyre, a farm in the old pariſh of Trailflat, about the year 1660. He does not ſeem to have been an *obſcure* Scotchman, as a certain writer ſtiles him; he more than once repreſented Dumfries, &c. in the Scotch parliament. The ſame houſe gave birth to his grandnephew, Dr James Mounſey, firſt phyſician for many years to the Empreſs of Ruſſia. The widow, who now enjoys the farm, is ſiſter to Dr John Rodgerſon, who ſucceeded Dr Mounſey as firſt phyſician to the Empreſs.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—With regard to the advantages of this pariſh, it may be obſerved, that a ſpring of fine water may be found in almoſt every field. It is interſected in various places by fine rivulets. It is near the market town of Dumfries. The turnpike road to Edinburgh paſſes through it, on which a mail coach runs once a day, and a diligence often three times a week. Other roads in the pariſh are very bad: There is, however, ſufficiency of money for repairs.

pairs. The ſtatute labour is commuted. The general opinion is much in favour of turnpikes. One of the moſt extenſive bleachfields in Scotland is carried on at Trailflat. There are only 3 ſmall villages. There is one lake of about 5 or 6 acres in extent. It is ſaid that a ſet of farm houſes once ſtood on the ſpot which this lake now occupies, and that they were ſunk by an earthquake. Almoſt every farmer has two carts. Two horſes will draw, in light ſingle carts, 16 creels of coal from Sanquhar with greater eaſe than 10 creels in a heavy double cart. In 1782, the pariſh not only ſupplied itſelf, but exported grain in conſiderable quantities. Property in land has been frequently changing; but ſome farms have been rented by the ſame family for the ſpace of 300 years. About nine years ago the pariſh abounded with wood; but only a few trees now remain. The woods on one eſtate ſold for L. 6000 The people, with a few exceptions, are induſtrious and ſober. They enjoy many of the comforts of ſociety: Their houſes, however, are in general miſerable hovels. Till within theſe two or three years, upwards of 500 buſhels of malt were made in the pariſh by different tenants for their own uſe, and to ſupply labourers at a reaſonable rate, the exciſe of which, though moderate, amounted to a conſiderable ſum; but they are now almoſt totally deprived of this comfort, owing chiefly to the ſeverity of the exciſe laws, and are in danger of being driven to the *dram-ſhop*, which is at once pernicious to their health and deſtructive of their morals.

NUM-

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF CROSSMICHAEL.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN JOHNSTONE.

Origin of the Name.

IN old writings, the name of this parish is Corsemichael; but of late the orthography in the title has been more in use. The etymology is obviously Saint Michael's Cross.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—This parish lies near the center of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, in the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and synod of Galloway. It is nearly of a rectangular form. Its length, from north to south, is about 5 English miles; and its breadth, from east to west, from 3 to 4. It is bounded on the north by Parton; on the east by the river or water of Urr, which separates it from Kirkpatrick-Durham and Urr; on the south by Buittle and Kelton; and on the west by the Dee, which separates it from Balmaghie. About a sixth part of this parish, contiguous to its northern border, is mostly covered with heath and coarse grass, and contains a few hills of moderate elevation, which in general are rocky. A great part of the farms in this neighbourhood is capable of improvement, and is daily receiving it: The rest of the parish presents a surface very beautifully diversified. The land rises in the form of a ridge from the two rivers, and is, at regular distances, interspersed with gen-

tle

tle ſwells, or, as they are called, knows, all of which are arable, and, when properly dreſſed, have a fine effect. Along the Dee is an extenſive and fertile valley.

Soil, Climate, &c.—The ſoil is extremely various; ſuch as loam, meadow, holm, till, gravelliſh or ſandy. The whole is remarkable for producing exuberant crops of grain, and a ſpecies of natural graſs, which, though not tall, is excellent paſturage. A good deal of rain falls in moſt parts of the weſt of Scotland. There is, however, rather leſs here than in the adjacent pariſhes, becauſe the high hills which collect the vapours, and break the clouds, are at a conſiderable diſtance. The air is by no means moiſt: Snow ſeldom lies long; and, on the whole, this place is as healthy as any in Britain. Since the moſſes have been drained, the ague, which was the only prevalent diſtemper, has quite diſappeared. The two rivers which bound its eaſtern and weſtern extremities, promote a conſtant circulation of air, and prevent noxious vapours from collecting. The people live not in towns or villages, and moſt of them are employed in agriculture, which is favourable at once to health, longevity, and morals. Within theſe 20 years, at leaſt 12 perſons have died in the lower parts of Galloway, from 100 to 115 years old. William Marſhal, a tinker in this place, is now 118. He might paſs for a man of 60. His faculties are unimpaired, and he walks through the country with eaſe. One thing muſt here be ſtated as highly pernicious. The advanced duties on malt have almoſt entirely aboliſhed the practice of brewing. Ale-houſes no longer exiſt; but dram-houſes have been ſubſtituted in their place, which the cheapneſs of whiſky, and the contraband trade in foreign ſpirits carried on in this country, tempt the people to frequent too much.

Lakes,

Lakes, Rivers, and Canals.—There are two lakes or lochs to be taken notice of. Erngrogo Loch is remarkable for two ſmall iſlands on it, which are breeding places for ſea-gulls, that repair thither in great quantities at the proper ſeaſon. Loch Rohn, or Roan, ſomewhat larger than the former, is a very great natural curioſity. Its ſuperficial contents are from 36 to 40 acres, and its depth is from 10 to 22 fathoms. It is ſituated in the higheſt part of the adjacent country. No rivulets or ſtreams run into it, nor has it any viſible ſupply except the clouds. Its waters are exceedingly clear, and, unleſs the froſt be very intenſe, it ſeldom freezes. At the mouth of the Urr there is a ſmall harbour, at which Engliſh lime and coals are imported, and grain and meal exported. The Dee is formed by the junction of the Dee and the Ken, two miles and a half above the head of this pariſh, whence they proceed in their courſe under the name of the Dee, till they fall into the ſea below Kirkcudbright. The breadth of the Dee, oppoſite to this pariſh, is from 700 to 2220 feet. There are ſeveral fords when the water is low; but all of them are dangerous, and have been fatal to ſeveral perſons, as the pools are not ſeen on account of the blackneſs of the water. There are two ferries here: One is called the Boat of Balmaghie; and about a mile above is the Boat of Livingſton. The water here is 45 feet deep; and this is the place at which the canal, to be afterwards mentioned, would join the Dee. The meadows along the Dee, which are very extenſive, never fail to be laid under water after a heavy fall of rain. During the winter, the floods are ſo frequent, and leave ſuch quantities of ſand, that the meadows are rendered unfit for paſturage. In ſome places, earthen banks or mounds have been erected, are erecting, or may be erected with advantage; but by far the greater part of the meadows cannot poſſibly be ſaved from the inundations. Some years ago, Mr

Gordon of Culvennan, at his own expence, cut a canal to connect the Dee with Carlinwark Loch. Thus, boats carrying from 10 to 24 cart load of marle each, paſſed up to New Galloway, ſituated 15 miles from the loch. Marle ſold at the loch at 1 s. per cart load; or 21 cubical feet was ſold at New Galloway at 1 s. 9 d.; and proportionally lower at other places by the way. The canal is only on a ſmall ſcale, and at preſent out of repair. The rocks at Tongland bridge, and its ſhallowneſs between them and this place, prevent the Dee from being navigable for 8 or 10 miles. It might, however, be connected with the ſea at two places by a canal, by which veſſels might carry up the means of improvement to a country that wants them, and return with fuel to one in which the want of this neceſſary article prevents the introduction of manufactures. An actual ſurvey has lately been made; and, from the eſtimates of ſkillful engineers, it appears that the wiſhed for communication might be opened for L. 9000. A curious fact has been aſcertained by Mr Copland, viz. that the rivers in this neighbourhood have conſiderably decreaſed of late, and that the Urr did not diſcharge into the ſea a third part of the water it did 40 years ago. Mr Copland thus accounts for this ſtriking phenomenon. Land uncultivated, and covered with heath, is almoſt impenetrable by water; and, of courſe, the rain that falls muſt run off its ſurface into the channels of the rivers. This was the ſtate of the land here till it began to be improved by marle and lime. The application of theſe manures pulveriſes the ground, and prepares it for abſorbing the rain. Beſides, as it is well known that water is a material part of the food of plants, leſs of it will be left to flow into a river, when at leaſt "four blades of "graſs, and four ears of corn, have been made to grow on "its banks, where there was only one before."

Fiſh.

Fiſh.—The Urr abounds with trouts, and a great many ſalmon come to ſpawn in it; but few are taken or ſold here. There is a great ſalmon fiſhery on the Dee at Kirkcudbright, and another at Tongland, about two miles above it. The ſalmon of the Dee are of a darker colour, and much fatter, than thoſe of moſt other rivers in the ſouth of Scotland. Few of them get over the ſteep rocks at Tongland except when the water is ſwelled, and thoſe that do are obliged to make the beſt of their way paſt the loch of Ken, as its inhabitants are not remarkable for hoſpitality: Theſe are, the pike or ged, the perch, and the eel. The pike are found here in great perfection, and of an uncommon ſize: They are always in ſeaſon when the weather permits them to be caught. They are caught with the fly, or with lines baited with burn trouts or frogs. The perch were firſt introduced into this river and loch in the year 1750, by the late Alexander Copland, Eſq; of Colliſton. Since that time they have multiplied remarkably, and are now taken in great quantities, eſpecially about midſummer, by thoſe who fiſh with worm baits for amuſement. The eels are never interrupted in their poſſeſſion of the waters, as the country people have an inſuperable prejudice againſt feeding on an animal which ſo ſtrongly reſembles the ſerpent. The caſe, however, was different in former times. In the dark ages, when the art of cookery was but little underſtood, there was, in this pariſh, a fiſhery of eels, which were exported to Italy. This is mentioned by Hector Boethius, and after him by Buchanan.

Population.—As records have not been regularly kept, the antient ſtate of population here cannot be preciſely aſcertained. The knowledge of ſome facts hath however been preſerved. From the year 1751 to 1761 the baptiſms were 128, being, on an average, about 13 yearly. For the 16 following years

years about 17 yearly, as the whole amounted to 278. According to the return made to Dr Webster about 40 years ago, this parish contained 613 souls. On an actual enumeration, it was found, on the 1st January 1791, to contain 772. The inhabitants have therefore increased 159 since that time. At present, there are persons

Under 10 years of age	200
Between 10 and 20	125
—— 20 —— 50	336
—— 50 —— 70	82
—— 70 —— 90	29
Total	772

Of these 380 are males, and 392 are females. They occupy 163 houses, 14 of which have only one inhabitant each. In one village there are 70, and in another 36 souls. All the rest live in the country.

Abstract, for the last seven years, of

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1784	20	3	16
1785	23	1	11
1786	19	4	7
1787	24	6	8
1788	21	5	9
1789	24	2	3
1790	17	10	6
Total	148	31	60
Average nearly	21	4	8

Of

Of those who have died in the course of these seven years, 12 were under 4 years of age; 9 from 60 to 70; 16 from 70 to 85; and 23 of various ages. The annual births have been to the whole population as 1 to 36; the marriages as 1 to 192; the deaths as 1 to 98. This last circumstance affords a striking proof of the uncommon healthiness of the place.

Causes which have affected the State of Population.—Formerly there were a considerable number of *lot-crofts*, that is, small pieces of land kept always in crop, and let along with cottages, and the privilege of grass for one or two cows. The abolition of these about 20 or 30 years ago, and the practice of throwing several farms into one, occupied chiefly for the purpose of grazing, gave a temporary check to population. A very large tract of the finest land in this parish was for a number of years in the possession of one man, who neither resided upon, nor ploughed it. Of late, marle and lime have contributed greatly to the improvement of the country; and, as agriculture requires more hands than pasturage, population has been increasing with rapidity. The farms have been reduced to a smaller size; and only three are occupied by tenants who do not reside upon them. In a few years a considerable number will probably be added to the people, by the execution of a plan adopted, on part of their estates, by three gentlemen, to whom a large portion of the parish belongs. The plan is this: As soon as a lease expires (and several hundred acres now are, or have lately been in the natural possession of the proprietors) the farm is parcelled out into small lots, from 4 to 15 acres each of arable ground. These, properly fenced, are let to those who offer the highest rent. The tenants sue house-steads and gardens, for which they pay a duty, at the rate of L. 2 or L. 4 per acre annually, and

and on which they build at their own expence what houſes they need. Of the adjoining park they get a 19 years leaſe, at about double the rent which was paid by farmers, properly ſo called. Several of theſe lots are taken, to be entered on now, or at Whitſunday next. The tenants are either tradeſmen or labourers, who propoſe to conſume in their families the produce of the land, and to pay the rent out of the money they receive for working for others.

Diviſion of the Inhabitants—According to,

1ſt, Place of Birth.

Natives of England	4
——— Ireland -	10
——— Iſle of Man -	5
——— Highlands -	1
——— Edinburgh -	3
——— Galloway and Dumfries -	749
Total	772

2d, Religious Perſuaſions.

Cameronians -	14
Their children -	12
Antiburghers -	15
Their children -	9
Epiſcopalians -	2
Roman Catholic -	1
Eſtabliſhed church	719
Total	772

3d, Occupations.

The ſtewart depute	1
The miniſter -	1
The ſchoolmaſter -	1
Farmers renting L. 15—L. 170 -	41
Farmers under L. 15	27
Weavers -	5
Shoemakers -	4
Taylors and 3 apprentices	7
Blackſmiths and 1 do.	3
Maſons and 5 do.	10
Joiners and 1 do. -	6
Dyer and 1 do. -	2
Shopkeepers -	3
Small innkeepers -	2
Male ſervants -	51
Female ſervants -	54
Millar - -	1
Labouring cottagers	55
Paupers - -	7
Families of the above, &c.	491
Total	772

Character

Character of the People.—In their religious ſentiments, the inhabitants of Galloway are apparently more united than thoſe of moſt other parts of Scotland. Within the bounds of the extenſive preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, there is not a diſſenting meeting-houſe of any deſcription. The morals of the people in this country have, from three cauſes, ſuſtained material injury. Its vicinity to Ireland has rendered it the receptacle of ſome of the leaſt reſpectable of the inhabitants of that kingdom. The cattle trade is leſs favourable than agriculture to ſobriety and honeſty: But, above all, ſmuggling, for which our local ſituation is but too favourable, tends to relax every moral obligation. But, while theſe general remarks are made, it is by no means admitted that the conduct of the inhabitants of this pariſh furniſhes any extraordinary evidence of their truth. None have occaſion to beg without the bounds of the pariſh. Vagrants never repeat without effect a real or a fictitious tale of woe; and when extraordinary collections are made for any charitable purpoſe, this pariſh yields not to any of its neighbours in point of liberality. The ſtile of manners are ſuch as may be expected to characteriſe a people in a ſtate between rudeneſs and refinement, poſſeſſed of a competent portion of the comforts of life, without having obtained the means of luxury.

Church, &c.—The manſe was built in 1744, and the church in 1751. Both have been repaired and enlarged ſince the ordination of the preſent incumbent. Ten acres have been added to 5½, of which the glebe formerly conſiſted. By decreet 1784, the ſtipends are, 42 bolls victual, and L. 762:16:10 Scots money. The value of the whole living, on an average, may be L. 112 Sterling. Alexander Gordon of Culvennan, Eſq; is patron. Mr John Johnſtone, a batchellor, is the preſent incumbent.

Schools.

Schools.—In the year 1735, William Gordon, Esq; merchant in Bristol, built a school and schoolmaster's house, and endowed it with a salary of L. 10 *per annum*, on condition that all the children of the parish should be taught *gratis*. As the expence of living advanced, the schoolmaster found this provision too small for his support. In the year 1775, he presented a petition to the commissioners of supply, and obtained a legal salary of 200 merks Scots. His living, therefore, including gratuities at Candlemas, may amount to L. 23 on an average. The houses formerly built having become ruinous, new ones were erected in the year 1787, in a more centrical situation, and the expence of them was defrayed out of the vacant stipends, which fell due during the dependence of a law-suit, about the right of patronage, previous to the settlement of the present minister. At this school about 60 children are instructed in Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, &c. There are several private teachers, whom a few neighbouring families employ and pay.

Poor.—On an average, seven or eight persons are maintained by alms. At present, two are supported out of the parochial funds. Five, who can earn part of their subsistence, receive a small quarterly contribution; and three others are occasionally relieved as their necessities require. The funds arise entirely from the voluntary offerings of the people. The collections in the church are about L. 19 *per annum*. The principal heritor makes up the loss, which the poor would otherwise sustain from his non-residence, by ordering a considerable quantity of meal to be distributed among them annually, according to the direction of the session, and by furnishing constant employment in his gardens and policy to several old and blind men, at the rate of 6 d. per day, which prevents them from becoming public burdens.

The

The Prices of Provisions and Labour, and the Expences of a Labourer's Family,—Differ so little here from those in the parish of Holywood, that the reader may be safely referred to the account given in pages 26, 27, and 28, of this volume. It must, however, be observed, that the price of some articles, though nominally the same in both places, is really lower here; for the Kirkcudbright pound of cheese, butter, &c. consisting of 28 ounces, is 4 ounces heavier than that of Dumfries. Meal is for the most part 1 d. per stone cheaper here than it is there. A great part of the harvest work is performed by persons from the moors, who hire for the whole harvest, which includes reaping, putting in the crop, and thatching the stacks. Their wages are from L. 1 : 1 : 0 to L. 1 : 6 : 0. They sleep and are maintained in the farmers houses, whether the weather permits them to work or not.

Division, Rent, and Price of Land.—In the year 1771, a very accurate map of this parish was drawn by Mr William M'Cartney land surveyor; but, as this map was never engraven, only two copies are extant. The number, size, and rents of the estates are as under:

Estates.	Acres.	Valuation.	Real Rent.
1.	2840	L. 1286 0 0	L. 1200
2.	923	562 3 4	450
3.	850	256 13 4	170
4.	244	96 0 0	100
5.	198	135 0 0	138
6.	306	92 0 0	105
7.	301	95 0 0	100
Carried over	5662	L. 2522 16 8	L. 2263

These seven belong to non-resident heritors.

Estates.	Acres.	Valuation. Scots.	Real Rent. Sterling.
Brought over	5662	L. 2522 16 8	L. 2263
8.	1076	470 10 0	630
9.	240	150 0 0	180
10.	208	138 0 0	100
11.	350	82 13 4	86
12.	66	27 10 0	66
13.	66	27 10 0	66
14.	18	12 0 0	18
15.	8	10 0 0	8
16.	2	20 0 0	3
Total	7696	L. 3461 0 9	L. 3420

The proprietors of these nine reside upon them.

The moor grounds are let, on an average, at 2s. or 2s. 6d. per acre; arable and pasture, of inferior quality, from 6s. to 12s.; the best arable, pasture, and meadow, from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 : 0. The importance of inclosures is acknowledged, and the number of them is daily increasing. A great many farms have been sold, since the last peace, at the rate of from 23 to 28 years purchase.

Implements and Operations of Husbandry.—There are 80 ploughs, 120 carts, and 218 horses, all of which, except a few young horses, are employed in the improvement and cultivation of land. This is a country in a middle state between pasturage and agriculture. Of late years, calcareous manures, both foreign and indigenous, have been much used, and leases have been granted on terms calculated to encourage the purchase and application of them. The tenants have it in their power to plough annually a fourth, and some a third part of their arable ground, provided they can carry on their plough-

ing

ing in a regular course, always opening the oldest ground first, and taking only three, or, if one of them be green, four successive crops from the same field, and allowing it afterwards to rest at least six years. Except potatoes, few green crops are raised here, chiefly owing to the want of proper fences for preserving turnips or cabbages from the cattle during winter; and also because the practice of housing cattle has not yet become general, and, of course, such quantities of dung as these crops would require are not collected. Not above 10 or 12 acres of wheat are sown annually; those sown with barley may exceed 100. About a third part of the lands, as it goes out, is sown down with rye grass and clover seeds; and, if it has not been previously impoverished by over-cropping, the hay produced, both in point of quantity and quality, is highly valuable. The staple grain is oats. The small or grey oats have almost entirely given place to the white oats, though they are still less pure, and of an inferior quality to those raised in countries where improvements have been longer introduced. Of late, some farmers have cultivated a species of black oats, which are sooner ripe, and yield more meal, than any hitherto tried. In general, oats raised from ground improved with marle yield less meal than those from ground improved with lime, because the shell or hull of the former oats is thicker. The marle, however, is found to be the best manure for grass, and to be peculiarly adapted to the soil of Galloway. The farmers lay their account with paying one term's rent out of the profits of their crop, and the other out of those of their cattle. Most of the marle discovered in this parish has been exhausted. The principal resource now is the loch of Carlinwark, in the parish of Kelton, which abundantly supplies the demands of the country. This loch was sold three years ago for L. 2000.

Produc-

Productions.—About 80 acres are planted with trees, all of which are in a thriving condition. Grass is raised for the 218 horses mentioned above, and for 4 asses, 25 goats, 600 sheep, and 1840 black cattle. The breeding system is in general pursued. The highest recommendation of a cow is, that she brings up a good beast, and not, as elsewhere, that she gives much milk; and it has even become a proverb, that "a good farmer would rather kill his old son than kill a "calf." The Galloway cattle have one characteristic which naturalists may think incredible; they are almost all without horns! Dr Samuel Johnson, in his journey to the Western Islands, (London edition, 1775, pag. 186), has the following notable passage: "Of their black cattle, some are without "horns, called by the Scots humble cows, as we call a bee a "humble bee that wants a sting. Whether this difference "be specific or accidental, though we inquired *with great di-* "*ligence*, we could not be informed. We are not very sure "that the bull is ever without horns, though we have been "told that such bulls there are. What is produced by put- "ting a horned and an unhorned male and female together, "no man has ever tried, who thought the result worthy of "observation." Though it may savour of arrogance, the high authority quoted must be flatly contradicted. There is not within the bounds of this parish a single bull, nor a male of any other species, except a few goats and rams, with horns. The experiment the philosopher wished for, has been tried a thousand times, and the result has been observed to be a *calf*, sometimes with, and sometimes without horns, but never, as the Doctor most probably expected, an *unicorn*. A few cattle are fatted here for home consumption, and for the Dumfries market; but the far greater part of those reared are disposed of, at 3 and 4 years of age, to the drovers, who carry them up to London, but chiefly to Norfolk and Suffolk.

Some

Some drovers turn from L. 30,000 to L. 35,000 *per annum.* With respect to other provisions, this parish does more than supply itself. At Dumfries there is a ready market for fat swine, which are bought up and cured for the use of the English. Some barley, and a very great quantity of oats and oat-meal, are annually sent by land carriage to New Galloway and Damellington, to supply the moor country; and still greater quantities are shipped at the foot of the Urr and the Dee, for Liverpool, Whithaven, and the manufacturing towns in Lanark and Renfrewshire. Hares and partridges abound here, and they are even increasing, although none of our heritors are so attached to the game laws as to make an annual publication, in the newspapers, of their determined purpose to become the avengers of blood on the iniquitous generation of poachers.

Roads.—About a mile of the great military road (made by government) from the English border to Portpatrick, passes through the south end of this parish. Some years ago, the statute labour was converted by act of parliament. The inhabitants of this district pay at present the *maximum*, which is 15 s. Sterling for each L. 100 Scots valuation. Several good lines of road have been fixed on, and some of them are about half made. There is still much room for improvement. There are no turnpikes in this, or in the neighbouring county of Wigton. Turnpike roads would be very acceptable, if the ceremony of collecting money at the toll-bars could be dispensed with. It is doubted how far they would be expedient on any other terms. If they shall take place, manures ought to be exempted, and a very moderate tax should be laid on cattle, where the trade in them is carried on to so great an extent.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—There are in this pariſh ten irregular heaps of looſe ſtones, which antiquaries called *Pictiſh cairns.* Three of theſe have been opened by perſons ſtill alive; and in each of them ſome human bones have been found, in coffins conſiderably above the ordinary ſize. There are ſeveral moats, as in other parts of Scotland; remains of antient and later fortifications. The foundations of a very large convent was lately diſcovered, about which record and tradition are ſilent. Farmers in ploughing, and labourers in digging, have frequently found Roman urns, ſwords, and other implements.

Language, and Etymology of Names of Places.—The language ſpoken here is neither Engliſh nor Scottiſh, but a mixture of both. With the exception of a few provincial words and phraſes, the inhabitants ſpeak with more propriety than thoſe of the ſame ſtation in moſt parts of Scotland. The names of places are derived from the Engliſh, the Gaelic, and from combinations of both. Many of them are deſcriptive of the ſituations of places, or of their dependence on the church, &c.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages of this place, as muſt appear from what hath been ſaid, are very conſiderable. The chief diſadvantages which it labours under, are the ſcarcity and dearneſs of fuel, and the length and badneſs of the roads over which it muſt be brought. The plough has almoſt totally removed the whins, and other bruſh-wood, which formerly were of material ſervice to the poor. As there are few moſſes in the pariſh, moſt of the peats muſt be brought from the diſtance of 4 or 5 miles; and even there the proprietors will ſcarcely diſpoſe of them at any price. Some people bring coals, by land carriage, 40 miles from Damellington in Airſhire. This country might be furniſhed with Engliſh coals, were

were it not for the duty prepoſterouſly impoſed on thoſe that are water-borne, and exacted by the revenue officers with great rigour. Scarcely any grievance calls more loudly for redreſs. If a duty muſt be had from coals, it would certainly be more conſiſtent with the wiſdom of parliament to lay it on at the pit, than to collect it ſolely from thoſe whoſe local ſituation ſubjects them to the additional expences of freight and inſurance.

NUM.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF PARTON.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM DONALDSON.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THE name of this parish, for more than 300 years past, has been spelt Parton; and Parton, though probably altered, both in orthography and pronunciation, from the Gaelic, whence it is derived, is said to signify in that language *the hill top*, which is perfectly descriptive of the situation. Most of the names of places here are derived from the Gaelic, and, under all the disguises of writing and pronunciation, are still understood and interpreted by those who are skilled in that language. This parish lies in the stewartry and presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and synod of Galloway. It approaches to a square form, 5 miles on each side. It is bounded on the north by Balmaclellan; on the east by Kirkpatrick-Durham, from which it is separated by the small river Urr; on the south-east by Crossmichael; on the south by Balmaghie, from which it is separated by the Dee; on the west and south-west by Kells, from which it is separated by the Ken, a river that is in some places near a mile broad. The parish is from 10 to 15 miles from the nearest sea-port; and no roads are opened up to its interior parts. The arable ground is of a light or sandy quality. The ground is very unequal. There are

no

no considerable mountains, but many little hills. The flats and eminencies are generally covered with heath, except in the ſouthern border, where furze and broom uſed to prevail before the improved mode of cultivation.

Agriculture, &c.—The number of farms is between 40 and 50. Each hath a plough. The old Scottiſh plough is uſed in breaking up the ground, when 3, and often 4, horſes are uſed a-breaſt. In the ſubſequent ploughings, a lighter plough, with 2 horſes and 1 man, is uſed. It is ſuppoſed that 400 acres may be annually employed in raiſing oats, 6 or 8 in barley, and 50 in potatoes. Potatoes make a principal article of food of the lower claſſes of the people; and, with a ſmall degree of attention, the old crop continues good till ſucceeded by the new. On the ſale and exportation of ſheep, wool, black cattle and oats, the farmers depend for the paying of their rents. Oats are ſown from the middle to the end of March, and reaped from the end of Auguſt to the end of September. Potatoes are planted in the beginning of April, and are ready at Lammas. Moſt part of the farms are incloſed with ſtone dykes. The advantages of ſuch incloſures are well known. The land rent of the pariſh is near L. 2000. Land ſells from 27 to 32 years purchaſe. The nature of the ground in different farms is very different. One, conſiſting of 45 acres, lately let at L. 48 *per annum*; another, of more than 400 acres, let for L. 40. The rent of farms is from L. 10 to L. 120 *per annum*. Although the rents of ſome farms have been even doubled within theſe laſt 30 years, yet the condition of the people is much improved.

Air and Diſtempers.—The air is ſalubrious, and there are no epidemic diſtempers, if we except rheumatic complaints, which, for theſe laſt 40 years, have prevailed among all ranks.

Mineral Springs, Lakes, and Rivers.—There is a mineral spring, which is supposed to possess, in some degree, the qualities of the old well at Moffat. It was formerly much frequented by the common people, but is now quite neglected. No cures have been properly authenticated. Perhaps the water was used in an injudicious manner. There are seven small lakes plentifully stored with trout. The river Dee joins the Ken about half a mile above the kirk, from whence it has the name Dee till it enters the Solway Frith at Kirkcudbright. In a flood, the Dee sometimes rises 8 feet perpendicularly, by which large tracts of meadow ground are overflowed. This, in summer, is very hurtful to the hay; but, in winter and spring, considerably improves the crop. Opposite to Parton, the river is from 100 yards to half a mile broad, and from 10 to 30 feet deep. It abounds in pike and perch. The former are caught from 3 to 40 lb.; the latter from 1 to 4 or 5. Formerly the moors afforded great plenty of black and red game; hares and partridges are still in abundance; woodcocks appear in the end of October.

Quarries.—A slate quarry, not a mile from the river, was formerly wrought, but by unskillful management has gone into disrepute. In the opinion of judges, it might still be rendered valuable, considering the spirit of improvement, especially of building, which seems to prevail much in this part of the country.

Population.—The return of the population to Dr Webster was - - - - - - 396

Inhabitants in the year 1790 - - - 409

The annual average of marriages from 1744 to 1782 4

——————————— births - - - 11

——————————— deaths - - - 8

In

In 1791, the number of ſouls above ſix years of age, excluſive of ſeceders and Papiſts - - 400
(The diminution ſince that period is owing to great farms).
Inhabited houſes - - - - 100
Families (4 of them Catholics and 4 Seceders) - 80
Perſons in a family, at an average, - - 5
Proprietors of land (the patron and three others reſide in the pariſh) - - - - 12
Mechanics of all deſcriptions - - 10
Horſes - - - - - - 120
Cattle - - - - - - - 1000
Sheep - - - - - 3000
Goats, not above - - - - - 60

A few years ago, a man died above 90, who, about 8 months before his death, got a complete ſet of new teeth, which he employed till near his laſt breath to excellent purpoſe. He was four times married, had children by all his wives, and at the baptiſm of his laſt child, which happened not a year before his death, with an air of complacency expreſſed his thankfulneſs to his Maker for having "at laſt ſent him "the *cled ſcore*," i. e. 21.

Church and Stipend.—The church, ſituated within 200 yards of the river, is remarkable for little elſe than its darkneſs and diſproportion, being 65 feet long, and 14½ broad. The pulpit is of ſolid oak, curiouſly carved, and bearing date 1598. The manſe, rebuilt in 1777, had additions and repairs in 1789, and is now large and commodious. The ſtipend is L. 83:6:8⅓ the manſe and glebe L. 10. William Glendonwyne of Glendonwyne, Eſq; is the patron.

Poor.

Poor.—At an average for 20 years paſt, the number of poor who have received ſtated or occaſional ſupplies are 6. The annual collections, and the intereſt of lent money, amount to L. 10 *per annum.* In 1782—3, though the meal got up to half-a-crown the ſtone, yet the poor were competently ſupplied, and the other inhabitants lived much in their uſual ſtile.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—In 1761, the yearly wages of a man ſervant were L. 2 : 10, of a maid ſervant L. 1 : 10. In 1790, the former have advanced to L. 8, or L. 8 : 10, and the latter from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum.* A labourer's wages are 8 d. and his victuals; a maſon's or carpenter's 1 s.; a taylor's 8 d. There is no ſtated market here for proviſions. In 1761, a fat ſheep, weighing from 40 to 50 lbs. ſold for 7s. or 7s. 6d.; a dozen of eggs for 1 d.; a hen for 4 d.; a pound of butter for 6 d.; a ſtone of cheeſe for 3 s.; and a ſtone of oat meal for 1 s. Now, all theſe articles, except the laſt, are nearly doubled.

Fuel, &c.—Peat is the general fuel. It is ſcarce in the ſouthern parts; and the poorer ſort of people uſe broom and furze. It is plentiful in the middle and eaſtern parts, and of the beſt quality. The moſſes are of difficult acceſs, as no proper roads are opened. The inhabitants are obliged to carry home their peat on horſe-back in corn ſacks, as carts cannot be uſed. There are no turnpike roads in this part of Galloway. The principal road here, which goes along the river, will be made good by a commutation of the ſtatute labour, at the rate of 15 s. the L. 100 valued rent, which annually produces L. 22 Sterling.

Antiquities.—Near the church there is an artificial mount,

120 yards circumference at the baſe, which is circular. It is ſurrounded with a ditch from 6 to 9 feet deep, whence the earth which compoſes the mount appears to have been taken. About half a mile north there is another mount, nearly double the dimenſions of the former, incloſed with two ditches. On a gentle eminence, at 200 yards diſtance, is ſeen the remains of a ſmall Druidical circle. About 3 miles north from the church there is a remarkable heap of ſtones, from which the farm where it lies ſeems to have been named *the Cairn*. The circular baſe is 120 yards in circumference. A ſimilar cairn, but on a ſmaller ſcale, about a mile's diſtance, was opened 50 years ago, and in, or toward the centre, was found a kind of ſtone coffin, containing ſomething like fragments of human bones.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF COVINGTON.

By the Rev. Mr BRYCE LITTLE.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THIS parish derives its name from Convent Town. It is in the county of Lanark, presbytery of Biggar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. Its length from south to north is 3 miles, and its breadth 2. It is bounded on the east by Libberton; on the west by Carmichael; on the south by Symington and Wiston; and on the north by Pittenain. There is some barren heath; but the soil is in general fertile. The haughs of Clyde are mostly of a good quality, but they are subject to inundation; which, though pernicious at certain seasons, at others enriches the ground, and supplies the place of manure. Part of the country is mountainous. Tinto is 1720 feet above the level of the Clyde.

Agriculture, &c.—Every farmer keeps two ploughs at least; one of them is the old Scottish, and the other Small's. There are about 630 acres in tillage yearly: About 90 in barley, 60 in pease, 70 in potatoes and turnip, 10 in lint, and the remainder in oats. There are about 60 acres of sown grass. Oats are sown in March, and barley in the beginning of May. The best croft land is let at L. 1:1:0 per acre; the best pasture

at

12 s.; the worſt at 2 s. 6 d. The average rent of farms is L. 50. The rent of the pariſh is L. 920 *per annum*. If incloſures are ſurrounded with wood, the farmers are convinced of their great utility. Harveſt, in general, commences about the beginning of September. The pariſh uſually exports one-fourth of the produce. In 1782, three-fourths of the crop were deſtroyed by the froſt. In 1783, the crop was remarkably good, ſeed being procured at a diſtance, and the ſeaſon being favourable. The heritors gave a generous aſſiſtance to their tenants. Hence, the bad effects of the ſeaſon 1782 were not ſo ſeverely felt as was at firſt dreaded. The oat meal ſold at L. 2:6:0 per load of 16 ſtone. The farmers who were ſo fortunate as to have any of the former crop, got an additional price for it: But this fell heavy on the poor labourer; eſpecially as he was often obliged to remain idle, the tenants being unable to employ him.

Population.—Fifty years ago, the inhabitants were 600. The principal cauſe of the depopulation ſince that time has been the enlarging of the farms. The return to Dr Webſter was 521. In 1779, the number of inhabitants was 484.

Males	223
Females	261
Annual average of births	10
——— marriages	4
Heritors (only 1 reſides)	3
Farmers	21
Houſehold ſervants, about	45
Tradeſmen	17
Seceders	16
Poor	9

Yearly collection for their ſupport about L. 16.

Labouring

Labouring horſes	75
Young horſes	40
Milk cows and black cattle	505
Sheep	1000

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—A common labourer's wages are 1 s. per day. With the aſſiſtance of his wife, he is able to ſupport his family. The women contribute much by ſpinning: An ordinary hand will earn 4 d. per day. Men ſervants get L. 6; women L. 3 : 5 : 0 *per annum*; carpenters get 1 s. 6 d. and taylors 1 s. 2 d. per day. Fifty years ago, hens were 4 d. butter 3½ d. per lb. and cheeſe 2 d. Now, hens are 1 s. butter 7½ d. and cheeſe 3 d.

Church and Stipend.—One half of the church is an old cathedral. The other half was added more than a century ago. The value of the ſtipend is L. 80. Mr Lockhart of Carnwath is patron.

Antiquities.—Within the bounds of this pariſh there are four camps, all of a circular form, ſurrounded with one or two deep ditches. One named the Caſtledykes has two ſubterranean paſſages, leading from the eaſt gate. There are two large cairns of ſtones, one ſtanding on a hill called Wallbrae, meaſuring in circumference 107 yards. There are many ſmaller ones in an adjoining moor. Several have been opened, which contain a coarſe coffin, compoſed of flat ſtones. The other large cairn ſtands on the top of Tinto, which ſignifies a *hill of fire*, and is ſaid to have taken its name from the Druids keeping a continued fire on the top of this cairn. On a round hill at the foot of Tinto there is a circle, ſurrounded with large ſtones, erected on one end, cloſe to one another. At the diſtance of 10 yards, there is another wall, nearly

nearly reſembling the former. In this place a large mound of earth is erected. This was probably a ſheriff's-court, where, on a certain day, the adjacent country attended to have juſtice done. The name of the adjacent farm ſeems to favour *this* tradition, for it is called Sheriff-flats. According to immemorial tradition, a bullock's ſkin full of gold lies buried in this place. Covington was formerly the ſeat of a knight baronet named Lindſey: In 1420, the laird applied, and obtained leave from parliament to build a fort, which was finiſhed in 1442. The walls are 10 feet thick. It was made ſtrong by every circumſtance that art could invent. An old ſword of very large ſize, called Wallace's, is ſtill preſerved. The ruin continues a grand and majeſtic object.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The fuel uſed here is coal. The diſtance from the coal hill is about 9 miles: The price there is 3 d per cwt. When laid down here, the price is nearly doubled. There is one village called Thankerton, beautifully ſituated on the river Clyde. There is a bridge over the Clyde at this village, built in 1778 by public contribution. It is kept in repair by the county. The roads are made and repaired by the ſtatute labour commuted. The people, in general, ſuppoſe that turnpike roads would be of advantage. Some farmers in this pariſh purſue improvements with ſpirit; but the climate ſtruggles againſt them. Plantations of wood in this part of the country would be of great advantage. The inhabitants, in general, are very humane, induſtrious, decent, and devout. None have enliſted in the army ſince 1778.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF TROQUIRE.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN EWART.

Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THIS pariſh is in the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, and in the preſbytery and ſynod of Dumfries. It is bounded by the river Nith on the eaſt; by the pariſh of New Abbey on the ſouth; by Lochrutton on the weſt; and Terregles on the north. It is about 7½ miles long, and about 4½ broad. The ſoil is various, but generally light. Moſs and moor form, perhaps, the fourth part of the pariſh The country is partly flat, and partly hilly. Part of the hills is covered with heath or coarſe graſs. There are few rocks.

Rivers.—The river Nith produces ſalmon and ſea trout, which yield in the ſpring 6 d. per Engliſh lb.; 3 d. and 2½ d. per lb. in ſummer and harveſt. In the two laſt ſeaſons they are in greateſt perfection. Nith is navigable with large veſſels at the foot of the pariſh; and in the middle with ſmall lime and coal ones from England. Sea mud comes up this river, and is uſed for manure with much ſucceſs.

Rental, Agriculture, &c.—The preſent rental of Troquire, viz. of land, is - - - - L. 4750

The

The rental in 1752, aſcertained before the Court of Seſſion, is - - - - - - L. 950

Hence, the preſent rental is five times the rental in 1752. This vaſt riſe of land in Troquire is in a great meaſure owing to the people having abandoned a wretched mode of huſbandry, in which they laid all their dung upon 3, 4, or 5 acres, of a field adjoining to the houſe, which they called *crofting land*, upon which they yearly ſowed bear or barley, that yielded the farmers only four or five for one, owing to it being choaked with weeds. The reſt of the farm had no other manure but what dropped from the cattle in the field; conſequently, their outfield crop, being oats, was very poor, and could ſcarcely pay the labour.

Laying lime upon the land, which began near 40 years ago, chiefly contributed to the improvement of the land and the riſe of rent. Some little ſhell marle and ſea mud, which were only got on ſome farms, were likewiſe uſed. Theſe means of improvement introduced a ſenſible mode of huſbandry, and will account for the great riſe of land in Troquire, together with the increaſed price of cattle and grain.

Ploughs in Troquire - - - -	58
Suppoſing every plough to work 25 acres in wheat, barley, oats, peaſe, potatoes, turnips, and fallow, there will be under tillage yearly - - -	1450 acres
Arable land not in tillage - -	3625
Total arable land in the pariſh	5075
In woods and plantations, at leaſt - -	550

There are 4 oat mills, 1 wheat, 1 waulk, 1 barley mill, in the pariſh; 2 breweries, and 2 malt houſes.

The

The rotation of crops in the greateſt part of the pariſh is uſually as follows: In the 1ſt year of breaking up land oats are ſown; 2d year fallow or potatoes; the land is manured; 3d year wheat; 4th year barley, or ſometimes oats, with rye graſs and red clover; 5th year rye graſs and clover; 6th year, the preceding rotation is recommenced. Oats are the prevailing grain. The beſt arable land in the pariſh near Dumfries is rented at L. 1; 10: 0 per acre: There are few at L. 2. Arable land ſown with graſs ſeeds yields, the firſt year, about L. 2: 10: 0, when the produce is ſold for hay; the ſecond year about L. 2. The rent of arable land, in general, is from 25 to 18 ſhillings per acre. The farms are generally incloſed; and the tenants find much advantage from incloſures. Wheat is uſually ſown about the beginning of October; oats in March and April; barley in April and May. Wheat and barley are uſually reap'd in the beginning of September. and oats about the middle; in dry ſummers ſooner. Two things are ſtill wanting to make the agriculture more perfect; aſſiduity to increaſe manure by compoſts, ſtraw yards, &c; and attention to keep the horſes always employed, which might be done if fallowing were increaſed. What is called the *ſervitude of tenants*, and *bailie work*, to the proprietors of land, is now almoſt entirely aboliſhed in this pariſh. It was a cruel mode of oppreſſion.

Price of Labour, &c.—The uſual days wages to men is 1s. without victuals; to women, for working at hay and weeding, 6d. Carpenters, bricklayers, and maſons, get about 1s. 8d. The wages of a man ſervant yearly is from L. 6: 6 to L. 8, beſides maintenance. A maid ſervant gets from L. 3 to L. 3: 10: 0. The price of proviſions is about the double of what they were 47 years ago. They are now about the Edinburgh prices, except poultry. Many families are chiefly ſupported

ſupported by potatoes. They furniſh the farmers with ſeed and dung, who, from this conſideration, allow them to get the crop, which they take up at their own expence. This practice deſerves to be adopted in the neighbourhood of towns and villages, where there is much dung.

Population.—The inhabitants of Bridgend, of all ages, are 1302

The inhabitants of other parts of the pariſh are 1298

Total inhabitants of all ages and denominations 2600

Mechanics in the village of Bridgend:

Shoemakers, maſters, journeymen, and apprentices	84
Smiths	4
Coopers	3
Clogmakers	6
Bakers	3
Taylors	26
Weavers	20
Wrights and carpenters	11
Maſons	3
Sawers of wood	4
Bricklayers	5
Maltſters, beſides ſervants	2
Ropemakers	3
Butchers	8
Barber	1
Brewers, beſides ſervants	2
Bleacher	1
Total	186

Mechanics

Mechanics in other parts of the parish.

Smiths	7
Weavers	13
Shoemakers	9
Taylors	3
Wrights	5
Total	37
Mechanics in Bridgend	186
Total mechanics in Troquire	223

Of the above number of inhabitants there are 200 Papists, including the children of Papists. About a fourth part of that number is an influx of Irish Papists, who within these few years have settled in Troquire. A Popish priest officiates among them; and he has met with no disturbance for these 50 or 60 years past.

There are some Seceders, Relief people, and M^c^Millanites, who have places of worship in Dumfries.

Church and Stipend.—The church seems to have been a chapel of ease. The stipend is L. 81 : 2 : 6. The glebe consists of about 11 acres, which might let from 30 to 40 shillings the acre. The manse was built in 1707, and has got several repairs.

Schools.—There are three schools in Troquire. The salary of the parish school is L. 10 yearly. The salary of the school erected by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge L. 10. The salary of a school in Bridgend L. 2 : 10 : 0. Besides these three, there are three other schools for grounding

ing young children in the Bridgend: One of them has 10 s. yearly from the ſeſſion; the other two teach for ſchool wages. All the teachers in ſchools get ſchool wages.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is pretty healthful. Some ſhell marle is found in the pariſh. The fiſhing is let for L. 75. Fuel is expenſive. Coal is ſold at 7 d. and 8 d. per cwt. Four hundred acres were lately planted, moſtly with fir and oak. There are a conſiderable number of natural woods. There are 6 four wheeled chaiſes, and about 50 carts. The roads are greatly improved. The military road that goes from Dumfries to Portpatrick runs through Troquire. The high price of grain was much felt by the poor in the years 1782 and 1783. Several heritors contributed ſome money, when mobs were threatened, to buy oats, which, being converted into meal, were ſold below the market price. The village of Bridgend contains many beggars. In it, and other parts of the pariſh, above 40 get alms, ſome by begging, others from the collections and pariſh funds, which amount to about L. 34 yearly. One female has been executed for child murder. Two perſons have been baniſhed. Only one has been guilty of ſuicide in the courſe of 47 years. A few young men go to ſea: Several enliſt in the army. The mode of living and dreſs is much improved.

NUM-

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN BERTRAM.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THIS parish takes its name from the river Avon, which divides the counties of Linlithgow and Stirling. It is situated in the latter, although it belongs to the presbytery of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian. It is bounded by the parishes of Borrowstounness, Linlithgow, Torphichen, Polmont and Slamanan. It is about 6 miles long, and 2 broad. The east end is of a light gravelly soil; the rest clay, with a mixture of moss and moor A considerable part of the parish has been inclosed within these few years. The farms are very small: The rents commonly are high: The harvest early. There are 50 ploughs in the parish; and no farmer has more than one. As the farms are small, grass parks are commonly taken from year to year for feeding cattle. More corn is raised than is necessary to supply the parish. Twenty acres of lint were sown last year. The rental of the parish may be about L. 2000.

Population.—The return of the population to Dr Webster is said to have been 1409; but there seems to have been a mistake here, as one who knows it well asserts, that there has been

been no material alteration ſince the year 1745. At preſent, the number of ſouls amounts only to 1065. Of theſe, there are 302 under 10 years of age. The oldeſt man in the pariſh is 90. The barony of Almond has been all laid out in graſs, and the farm houſes have become ruinous. This may be aſſigned as one cauſe, and it ſeems to be the principal one, of the decreaſe of the population; but that eſtate being now all incloſed, conſiderable plantations made, and to be let out in commodious farms, will add greatly to the beauty and population of the place. The annual average of births is 45; deaths 35; but the Seceders, in general, do not inſert their names in the pariſh regiſter. The number of this ſect here is 65. There are 37 heritors. The greateſt part of them reſide in the pariſh. There are no vagrant poor belonging to the pariſh. There are 20 penſioners on the poors roll.

Church and Stipend.—The church is old. The ſtipend is L. 83 : 6 : 8, at the old converſion of L. 8 : 6 : 8 the chalder of victual. The glebe conſiſts of 4 acres. The crown is patron.

Antiquities.—There ſtill remain ſome ruins of an old abbey, called Manuel, on the ſide of the Avon, about half a mile above Linlithgow bridge. It was built in the 12th century. There is an old caſtle called Almond hard by the church, which belongs to the Callander eſtate, but is not inhabited.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are ſeveral coal mines, and a great quantity of iron-ſtone in the pariſh. The fuel is coal and peat; but the former is chiefly uſed. There are 17 mills in this pariſh on the river Avon. There is 1 flour

and 1 barley mill; 4 corn and 4 lint mills; 2 snuff and 2 fulling mills; 1 bark, 1 bleeching, and 1 flint mill. The wages of men servants, living in the house, are commonly L. 6 a year, and of women servants L. 3. Labourers get 10d. and 1 s. per day.

NUM-

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF PENPONT.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM KEYDEN.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THE name of this parish is probably derived from *pendent pont*, an arched bridge, there being a bridge of one semicircular arch, supported by two steep rocks, over the river Scarr. It is of very remote antiquity; nor is it known when it was built. The singularity of the structure, when nothing of that kind existed here, might give occasion to the name. At any rate, the name of the parish is very antient, as appears from inscriptions on the communion cups, in the beginning of the 14th century. Penpont is a presbytery seat, and is situated in the synod and county of Dumfries. It is bounded by nine parishes, Glencairn, Tynron, Keir, Closeburn, Morton, Durrisdeer, Sanquhar, New Cumnock, and Dalry. New Cumnock is in the presbytery of Air, Dalry in that of Kirkcudbright. The parish is 16 Scottish statute miles long, and, at an average, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad. It extends from south-east, at the lower extremity, by a continual ascent, to the north-west, where the ground on the banks of the Scarr, which has its source there, is 3500 feet above the level of the river at the lowest part of it. In this tract there are 4 steep ridges, lengthways, with 3 deep and narrow glens, each watered by a very pure and plentiful stream.

The

The lower end is waſhed by the Nith, a conſiderable river, which divides Penpont from Durriſdeer and Morton, and by the Scarr, which is the march between it and Tynron and Keir. On the ſouth-weſt, the Scarr runs between Penpont and Tynron for 5 miles. The hills on both ſides are ſo ſteep and high, and the bottom ſo narrow, rocky, and woody, that the general view is pleaſant to thoſe who have any taſte for romantic ſcenes. At Chanlockfoot, the ridge, which ſprings up ſuddenly between two valleys, has its face wholly covered with trees, and the other, farther up, with graſs of a beautiful green, both of which views are particularly delightful. In the boſom of the north-eaſt ridge you diſcover Glenquhargen Craig, almoſt perpendicular, and above 1000 feet in heighth. It has two faces that ſtrike the eye, and no other rock is to be ſeen on either ſide. It is a hard browniſh whin ſtone. Some ſmall pieces are fallen down, with ſharp edges and angular points. It is one of the greateſt curioſities in the ſouth of Scotland. The north-eaſt ſide is bounded by the Mar-burn, which, lower down, is called the Canal. The general proſpect down the rivers Nith and Scarr is extenſive and beautiful, conſiſting of level ground highly cultivated, gentle riſings, woods, villas, and mountains. The manſe and church ſtand on a plain, about 30 feet above the Scarr, which winds about, in the form of an S, from ſouth weſt to north-eaſt. There is from hence a diſtinct view of the rivers for 8 miles, firſt ſeparate and then united. The pools here and there ſhew themſelves as ſmooth ſheets of water; and in floods the low ground is inundated for a mile broad, and 6 farm towns ſurrounded to the very doors. Proſpects worthy of notice every where preſent themſelves. At the old bridge, already mentioned, the banks of the Scarr are high, and ſkirted with wood; the channel rocky, and full of large ſtones; the bridge itſelf venerable, by a complete mantle of ivy and woodbine. Very near it, the water

water falls over a ragged rock 10 feet high, that reaches from ſide to ſide: A little farther down, the Shinnel, between high and woody banks, runs into the Scarr at right angles. At this ſpot is a large cairn, and the upper end of a fine ſheet of water; 3 mills, and the houſes belonging to them, in a cluſter; the dam-dyke, 18 feet above the rock, cloſe to, and below which, is a tremendous maſs of unequal rocks, 100 feet long, among which, as the fall is conſiderable, the water, eſpecially after rain, "rages, foams, and thunders down;" beyond, a large wood, and green hills riſing ſuddenly, and in various ſhapes.

Cairnkinnow is a high mountain ſtanding in the middle of the pariſh, and towards the north-eaſt ſide; the preciſe heighth unknown; but it is the higheſt land in this line between the Friths of Solway and Clyde. From the top of it may be ſeen Airſhire, Clydeſdale, Annandale, and Galloway; and Cumberland and Weſtmoreland in England.

The ſoil is in general ſandy, in ſome places light, but moſtly deep, and capable of great improvement by lime, which, in 15 years, has made an uncommon alteration on the face of this part of the country. The hills are green, except a few that are covered with a ſhort heath.

Agriculture, &c.—The Scottiſh plough is chiefly uſed, on account of the ſmall ſtones ſo frequent in a ſandy ſoil. Sowing commonly begins on the 1ſt of March, and reaping about the middle of Auguſt. All the common kinds of grain, and turnip, potatoes, clover, and rye-graſs, are raiſed with ſucceſs. About 138 acres are ſown with barley annually, and 25 with wheat. In this neighbourhood land lets from 18 s. to 1 l. 5 s. per acre. The real rent of the parſh is L. 2,500, which, in the

the last 15 years, has been increased L. 900. There are many inclosures; and the disposition to inclose seems to increase.

Rivers, &c.—Near the Scarr, which rises at the head of Penpont, are likewise the sources of the Ken, whose course extends to Kirkcudbright; of Afton, which falls into the Nith near New Cumnock; and of the Youghan, which joins the Nith at Sanquhar. The Scarr runs down the middle of the parish 12 miles, and for 6 more divides it from Tynron and Keir. A vast water spout, accompanied with tremendous thunder and lightning, emptied itself near the source of the Scarr in July 1783. Every one here was surprised by an uncommon flood in the evening. Herds of cattle, and their keepers, were suddenly surrounded: People at work were obliged to flee for fear of being inclosed. Hay and timber were carried off; one stone bridge and a house, with the wool of 1200 sheep, were swept away: Dreadful gulphs of whole acres were made on the face of the hills. There are 15 brooks in this parish. The fish in the rivers or brooks are salmon, caught chiefly in July and August, and sold at 3 d. per lb.; sea-trout; hirlings, caught in the same months; burn-trout; pikes, eels, and parrs. Dowloch is a small lake on the top of a hill, and famous, in the reign of superstition, for curing all manner of diseases. Those who resorted to it for relief left some part of their dress to the guardian demon or saint: By all accounts it has some mineral qualities.

Population.—The population of this parish has increased upwards of 100 within these 15 years, owing chiefly to the division of some large farms. The return to Dr Webster, however, was 857.

Inhabitants,

Inhabitants, anno 1790	800
Cameronians	77
Seceders	73
Annual average of baptiſms	24
Heritors	8
Tenants	30
Carpenters	7
Maſons	4
Smiths	4
Shoemakers	9
Weavers	12
Taylors	6
Houſes	166
Horſes	150
Cattle	980
Sheep	12000

Poor.—The poor in Penpont are tolerably provided for. None go about aſking alms except 2 lunatics. The kirk-ſeſſion has L. 450 at intereſt. The Duke of Queenſberry gives a bounty of upwards of L. 10, and likewiſe 25 ſtones of oat-meal. The collections are L. 12 *per annum.* The whole annual amount of the contributions for the poor, who conſiſt of 25 families, and ſeveral individuals, is about L. 46. Their principal food is oat-meal and potatoes. The articles of clothing, eſpecially ſhoes, are far more expenſive than formerly; fuel has alſo advanced in price. The rent of houſes is tripled. When a perſon ſtands in need of a nurſe as well as neceſſaries, a relation commonly takes the charge, and the ſeſſion pays at the rate of L. 5 *per annum.* A caſe of this kind ſeldom happens. Fourteen ſhillings are allowed for the expence of a funeral. Four-fifths of the pariſh, which is mountainous, conſiſts of ſheep farms; and the failure

failure of crop in 1782 was less felt here than in many other parts of the kingdom. The poor belonging to the Cameronians and Seceders receive supplies from the parochial funds; yet not one of these sects contribute a farthing to the maintenance of the parish poor: Moreover, many of the established church attend their meetings on particular days, which adds to their collections.

Wages.—Labourers have sufficient employment, and are able to support their families. The wages of a man servant, employed in the operations of husbandry, were L. 2 *per annum* 40 years ago; now they are L. 7. The wages of a woman servant, 40 years ago, were 13 s. 4 d.; now L. 3. About 40 years ago, a day labourer received 6 d. without victuals, now he receives 1 s. Carpenters wages are 1 s. 4 d. a day; masons 1 s. 8 d.; taylors 1 s. They are all doubled. A man during harvest, 40 years ago, got 8 s. 4 d.; a woman 5 s. Now a man gets L. 1 : 3 : 0, and a woman 18 s. Few reap by the day; but, when they do, they receive from 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. without victuals.

Church and Stipend.—The church was rebuilt in 1782. It is pleasantly situated on an eminence on the Scarr. The stipend is L. 86 : 2 : 2, with a glebe worth L. 11, consisting of 9 acres. The Duke of Queensberry is patron.

Improvements Suggested.—The repairing of roads, searching for coal, lead, and iron mines, might be attended with advantage. The division of some farms, and the establishment of a woollen manufactory, in particular, would be of great benefit. Vast quantities of wool and woollen yarn are carried out of this, and the neighbouring parishes, to a great distance. Penpont is so centrical, that it is said the farmers would

would be diſpoſed to bring all their wool to it without any advance on the price. This pariſh produces annually for ſale above 1500 ſtones heavy weight, that is, 24 lbs Engliſh each; and 10,000 might be found in the circle, beſides ſome finer wool, at no great diſtance, for particular uſes. Wool has been ſold theſe two laſt years at 5 s. 6 d. the ſtone, and for the ſix preceding years conſiderably cheaper. The late demand from England raiſed the price.

Antiquities.—An old Roman cauſeway runs through Tynron cloſe to the edge of the Scar. There are 2 moats of earth, 1 obliſk, and 4 very large cairns. The veſtiges of Tiber's caſtle, which has been a large building, are to be ſeen on the banks of the Nith. A ſmall part of the wall next the river remains. Foſſae are viſible, and ſome entrenchments where it was moſt acceſſible. It is ſuppoſed that the barony of Tiber is named from Tyber, or Tiberius. There is a Roman encampment too. The Engliſh had a garriſon in this caſtle in the time of Sir William Wallace, who took it by ſurpriſe.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—White and red free ſtone, and whitiſh grey with red ſpecks, abound in the lower part of the pariſh. There is calmſtone, and plenty of ruddle. Blue grey, and browniſh whin, are very abundant. Arches of bridges are built with whin. Water ſtone is a blue grey, dreſſes neatly, and is uſed in building. There are ſome rocks compoſed of ſpar, whin, and lime ſtone. Large tranſparent white ſtones are found at the head of Glenmannaburn. There are ſome mineral ſprings, but of little note, impregnated with iron. Marle is found in ſeveral bogs. There are indications of lead. iron, and coal. At preſent, coal is brought from Sanquhar, at the diſtance of 14 miles. At the pit, 8 cwt. coſts 10½ d. and ſells here at

3 s. There are 3 orchards in the pariſh, and a few fruit trees beſides. There is one village at the church, which contains above 100 inhabitants. The people in this pariſh are clean and ſtout, and generally above the middle ſize. Their houſes, dreſs, manners, and mode of living, are much improved. Since 1770, there have been 10 ſtudents at the Univerſity from this pariſh. The moſt prevalent diſtempers are colds. The rheumatiſm is frequent. Fogs, which are unfavourable to health, creep up from the rivers. There are 10 bridges. Turnpike roads were begun to be made laſt ſummer in this part of the country. Single coal carts pay 1½ d. toll near Sanquhar; and it is ſuppoſed that each will carry ſuch additional weight, with equal eaſe, as to procure a profit of 7 d. The ſtatute work is commuted.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF CRAMOND*.

Situation, Surface, and Extent.

THIS pariſh lies in the counties of Edinburgh and Linlithgow, on the ſouth ſhore of the Frith of Forth, into which the river Amon, the boundary of the two ſhires, falls at the village of Nether Cramond. It is in the preſbytery of Edinburgh, and the ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is bounded on the weſt by the pariſhes of Dalmeny and Kirkliſton; on the ſouth of Corſtorphine and St Cuthbert's; and by the latter pariſh on the eaſt. The northern boundary is formed by the Forth, which is here from 4 to 6 miles over. The eaſtern part of the pariſh is rather flat, though the ground in ſome places forms gentle riſings. Near the centre of the ſouth ſide is a craggy ridge, called Corſtorphine Hill, the north end of which runs into this pariſh, and the ſouth end of it into that whence its name is derived. The height of this hill, which bears ſome reſemblance to the figure of a cock's comb, with indentations in ſeveral places along its ſummit, is about 470 feet above the level of the ſea. To the north and weſt of it, the face of

* This account is properly an abſtract merely of a very valuable MS. intituled, "the Topography of Cramond Pariſh," written by John Wood, Eſq; which it is hoped the author will take an early opportunity of communicating to the public.

of the pariſh becomes more variegated than the eaſtern ſide, being diverſified with riſing grounds in ſeveral places. But the principal ornament of the weſt part is the river Amon, whoſe banks, from above Craigiehall to Nether Cramond, are high and ſteep, almoſt wholly covered with wood, and frequently chequered with bold and overhanging rocks. The land riſes in general to ſome heighth, even cloſe to the ſea ſhore; there are, however, in three or four places along the ſhore, ſandy plains or links. The length of the pariſh may be about 6 miles; and the breadth ſcarcely ever exceeds 2; though the ſhape is rather irregular, aſſuming at the weſt end a kind of furcated figure. It contains in all about 3890 Scottiſh acres, including the two ſmall iſlands of Cramond and Inchmickery.

Name.—The pariſh is denominated from the principal village, where the church ſtands, called Cramond, ſituated at the mouth of the Amon. Cramond appears evidently to be a contraction of *Caeramon*, derived from *Amon*, a Celtic word, ſignifying a river in general, and *Caer*, which, in the ſame language, ſignifies a fort, viz. the *Fort on the Amon*.

Manufactures.—The iron manufacture carried on by Meſſrs Cadells and Edington, who now employ a capital of above L. 30,000, conſiſts of 3 forges, 2 ſlitting mills, and 2 ſteel furnaces, at which bar iron is manufactured into bliſtered, ſquare or faggot, and German ſteel, hoops and rolled iron, rod iron, boiler and pan plates for fire-engines, ſockmoulds, anchor palms, bolts for ſhip building, and other articles. Above 30 men and boys are employed immediately at the works, ſome of whom earn 26 s. per week, and none make leſs than 4 s. There are alſo here ſpade and nail manufactures belonging to the ſame company, in which above 450

cwt. of nails, and 1000 dozen of ſpades, are annually made; and a file manufacture has been lately eſtabliſhed. Theſe three branches employ about 50 men and boys, who make from 3 s. to 20 s. per week. Much ſteel is exported from hence to India; and the greateſt part of the rod iron made here is ſent to Stirlingſhire, where the Cramond company employ above 200 men to manufacture it into nails, of which large quantities were, before the late war, exported to America.

The iron uſed at the Cramond works comes chiefly from Ruſſia and Sweden, upwards of 1000 tons being imported from the Baltic yearly. The average coſt per ton (including cuſtoms at 56 s. and freight from 8 s. to 15 s.) is L. 17 for Ruſſia, and L. 18 : 10 : 0 for Swediſh iron; but a very fine kind of the latter, the produce of the famous mine of Dannemora in Upland, called Oeregrund's iron, from the port where it is ſhipped, comes to L. 24 per ton. This ſort is uſed ſolely for making ſteel. Theſe different kinds of iron are 50 *per cent.* dearer than they were in 1780, which rapid advance has lately induced the proprietors to erect furnaces at Clyde, near Glaſgow, with the view of making bar iron for Cramond, which they hope will, in a few years, furniſh them with ſufficient materials, and ſave the great ſums remitted for that article. The Cramond works are ſupplied with coal from the Grange, near Borrowſtounneſs, a property of the Meſſrs Cadells, and they annually conſume about 1600 tons, which are brought in ſloops for 1s. 6d. per ton freight; prime coſt and other charges may be about 7 s. The forge hammers weigh from 4 to 6 cwt. each, are wrought by water, and make from 120 to 160 ſtrokes in a minute. Theſe hammers, and other caſt iron articles uſed here, are made at the Clyde furnaces.

Rent.

Rent.—Of the 3890 acres, estimated to be the content of the parish, there are about 2800 distributed into 26 farms from 40 to 280 acres each, at a rent of 20s. to 50s. per acre - - - L.4830 0 0

760 in the possession of the respective proprietors, valued at - - - 1300 0 0

240 let to several different persons in small proportions, at a rent of - - 550 0 0

90 of waste and hilly ground, such as Corstorphine hill, &c. - - - 20 0 0

L.6700 0 0

making an average of about 35s. an acre. The rent of the iron-works may be reckoned L. 260, and the village of Cramond may yield about L. 140 *per annum*, so the total rent of this district is L. 7100. The valuation in the cess-books of the county of Edinburgh, is L. 9426 : 13 : 0, and in those of West Lothian, L. 705 Scots, in all L. 10,131 : 13 : 0.

Produce.—The produce of the land, taken one year with another, may be thus estimated :

	Acres.	Produce per acre.	Price.	Total per acre.	Total Produce.	Total Value.
Hay	800	160 st.	6½d.	L.4 6 10	128,000 st.	L.3466
Wheat	700	6½ bl.	21 s.	6 16 6	4,550 bl.	4777
Beans&Peafe	450	6 bl.	13 s.	3 18 0	3,000 bl.	1950
Oats	400	7 bl.	14 s.	4 18 0	2,800 bl.	1860
Barley	300	6 bl.	16 s.	4 16 0	1,800 bl.	1440
Potatoes	150	30 bl.	7 s.	10 10 0	4,500 bl.	1575
Pasture	750	at 40 s. per acre		-	-	1500
Fallow	250		-	-	-	0
Waste lands	90		-	-	-	20
Straw sold in Edinburgh and elsewhere					-	412
						L. 17,000

which

which is at the rate of above 87 s. an acre; ſo that the land rent is equal to about two-fifths of the produce.

Crops.—Hay is the principal article raiſed in this diſtrict, the great demand for that commodity at Edinburgh, ſecuring a conſtant market. It is produced from red and yellow clover-ſeed, mixed with rye-graſs, and is cut early. The frequent repetition of this crop has leſſened the returns; formerly 8 or 10 pounds of clover ſeed, along with 2 buſhels of rye-graſs, were ſufficient for an acre, and produced great crops two years ſucceſſively; now it is found difficult to raiſe hay the ſecond year, although double the quantity of clover-ſeed is uſed. Theſe ſeeds are ſown with the foregoing crop of barley, wheat, or oats, the ground being well pulverized. Hay is a great favourite of the farmers, being an article eaſy to diſpoſe of, and cheaply reaped; the expence of cutting and making ſeldom exceeds 5 s. an acre, even when the acre produces above 200 ſtones. Sometimes, though rarely, a ſecond crop is made in the ſame year.

Wheat takes the lead of all other grain here, the farmers being induced to ſow as great a quantity as poſſible, in order that its lucrative returns may better enable them to pay the high rents common in the pariſh. It is ſown in every ſituation, on every ſoil, and often with very little attention to the ſtate of the ground, by which, and by frequently repeating this impoveriſhing article, the crops are by no means ſo good as they were formerly. Of this alteration the farmers are now become ſenſible; and, though they ſtill endeavour to have a conſiderable portion of their lands in wheat, they are more attentive to have the ground on which it is ſown in good condition. Summer fallow, potatoes, beans and peaſe, and ragſaugh, (i. e. two or three ploughings after a crop of hay) ſeem

now

now to be the systems most generally adopted for preparing the land to bear a crop of wheat.

Beans and pease, singly or mixed together, are raised in considerable quantities; part is sown in drills, and regularly horse hoed, though this practice is far from being general. Oats are still much cultivated, though not in so great a proportion to other grain as formerly. Dutch oats have, in some places, lately been substituted instead of barley; as they are well adapted to late sowing, and thus enable the farmer to work his land in the same manner as for barley. A large quantity of barley was formerly raised in this district, where the whole dung of the farm yard was usually put on the barley land, which with frequent ploughings, insured a lucrative return. But of late, the dung being almost entirely allotted to the wheat, the barley has declined in quality, and become so unprolific, that some farmers have entirely given up that article, substituting in its place Dutch oats as before mentioned. The quantity of barley produced in the parish, is, however, by no means trifling.

Potatoes form a great article of produce, the vicinity of Edinburgh affording an opportunity of disposing of them to advantage. There are some turnips, cabbages, carrots, and yams, cultivated here, though the quantity is very small. The yams are a very productive crop, never yielding less than 50 bolls, and sometimes 100, of 28 stones each, per acre, even without dunging the land. No part of the pasture ground is let at less than 30s. an acre, and some yields a rent of 45 s. and 50s. the produce is therefore moderately estimated at 40s. per acre.

Rotation of Crops.—No certain rotation of crops prevails in this

this district; one or other of the following ſyſtems is, however, uſually adopted: 1ſt year, ſummer fallow, or hay and rag faugh; 2d, wheat; 3d, oats; 4th, beans and peaſe; 5th, barley; 6th, hay. Or, 1ſt, ſummer-fallow; 2d, wheat; 3d, beans; 4th, wheat; 5th, barley; 6th, hay.

Manure.—The principal manure is ſtable and ſtreet dung from Edinburgh and Leith, of which about 10,000 cart loads are annually brought into this diſtrict, that, one with another, coſt about 1 s. prime coſt, and 1 s. 6 d. for carriage, making a total expence of L. 1250, and much the ſame quantity of ſtable dung, &c. may be made within the pariſh. The long continued uſe of the town dung has filled the ſoil full of every kind of annual weeds, in particular, bird-ſeed or wild muſtard, called here *ſcaldricks*, of which the fields are in one continued blow in the early part of ſummer. Sometimes lime is uſed from Burdyhouſe or Gilmerton, of which 40 to 80 bolls of ſhells are laid on each acre, and coſt 1 s. 4 d. per boll. Marle was diſcovered ſome years ago, on the farms of Marchfield and Craigcrook, where a conſiderable quantity was procured; but the working it becoming very expenſive, is now diſcontinued, and the pits are drowned.

Implements of Huſbandry.—Small's chain plough, drawn by two horſes, is generally uſed, which is much preferable to the old Scots ploughs, that required four horſes and a driver. Harrows are generally of the old kind, with 4 bulls and 20 iron teeth, improved by ſlots inſtead of rungs; there are alſo ſome of Lord Kames's harrows uſed here. Dung carts hold above 29 cubic feet, are mounted on ſtout narrow wheels 4½ feet diameter, with iron axles, weigh about 5 cwt. altogether, and uſually carry 16 cwt, two horſes being

yoked to each; but single horse carts are often used, in which it is asserted one horse can draw 12 cwt. as easily as two do 16 in the former. Corn carts are simple machines, mounted occasionally upon the wheels of the dung carts, for driving hay or unthreshed grain. There are many drill ploughs; plenty of stone rollers 5½ feet long, and 14 inches diameter; a few of Mr Sandiland's sod-cutters; some very complete threshing machines upon a large scale, and one of a peculiar construction invented by Mr Robertson at Granton, which, though by no means comparable in strength to the former, answers the purpose sufficiently, and, costing only L. 20, is within the reach of even the inferior order of farmers *.

Draught Cattle.—All draught work in the parish is performed by horses, which come chiefly from Linlithgow and Lanark shires, measure from 15 to 16 hands high, and cost from L. 16 to L. 20. There may be about 200 horses now employed in husbandry work, whereas the number was formerly double, when four horses were almost universally yoked to each plough.

Prices of Labour.—There are about 100 ploughmen and carters, whose annual wages are from L. 4 to L. 5 in money, 36 s. for kitchen †, 10 s. for two pair of shoes, 6½ bolls of oat-meal, diet in harvest, a free house and garden, the carriage of their coals, and some small perquisites, all which may

* Of these implements, Small's plough costs L. 2, a dung cart complete, L. 8 : 8 : 0, a corn cart 15 s. and a stone roller with the frame L. 2.

† *Kitchen* is an allowance instead of milk, butter, small beer, and some other articles of less value.

may be moderately eſtimated at L. 13; a great increaſe when compared with their wages in 1760, which were no more than L 8, including every article; and even ſo late as 1775, L. 9 was reckoned high emolument. Maid ſervants of farmers get L. 3 *per annum*, and are maintained in the houſe. Barnmen and other able-bodied labourers are paid at the rate of 5 s. and 6 s. per week, when conſtantly employed; when only occaſionally, 1 s. 2 d. per day. A maſon's wages is 1 s. 8 d. a day, and a hay cutter's 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d. per day. Reapers get from 6 d. to 1 s. a day, and maintenance during harveſt. Women working in the fields earn in general d a day, and are much better employed than formerly, there now being a great deal of hoeing, weeding, and picking performed by them, inſomuch that they uſually have at leaſt one half of the year outwork. When not thus employed, they betake themſelves to ſpinning, at which they ſeldom make more than 3d. a day.

Work by the piece is now coming into uſe, in which corn is cut at 5s. per acre on an average, and threſhed at 6d. per boll. Hay is cut from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per acre, according to the weight of the crop, and made in ſome caſes at 2s. per acre. Stone and lime dikes built at 12s. per rood, materials being furniſhed by the employer; houſes, barns, and ſtables at 25s. ditto.

The following table exhibits a comparative ſtate of the prices of labour in 1760, 1775, and 1790.

	A Ploughman *per annum.*	Maid-ſervant *per annum.*	Day-labourer *per day.*	Maſon *per day.*	Women in general *per day.*
1760	L. 8 1 0	L. 1 16 0	L. 0 0 7	L. 0 1 1½	L. 0 0 4
1775	9 2 0	2 6 0	0 0 10	0 1 4	0 0 5
1790	13 8 0	3 0 0	0 1 2	0 1 8	0 0 6

Fiſheries.

Fisheries.—The fisheries are at a low ebb, the oyster fishery being much degenerated from what it was about 50 years ago, when eleven large boats belonging to Cramond were constantly occupied during the season in dragging oysters, the greatest part of which was sold to Dutch vessels at an average of 4s the herring barrel. The scalps were then so productive, that it was usual for a boat with five hands to make 30s. a day; but they are now so much destroyed, probably with over fishing, as to employ at present no more than 4 or 5 boats, and these only occasionally. The scalps about Inch Mickery, belonging to Lady Greenwich, are let at a rent of L. 24 *per annum*, to the Newhaven fishers. The Almon formerly abounded with a variety of fish, such as trouts, grilses*, some salmon, and great plenty of smelts; but owing to liming the adjacent grounds, and watering flax in the river, it was for some years almost totally deserted by these different kinds of fish, which are still extremely scarce. Whales have sometimes been stranded on the lands here, particularly in 1690, when no less a number than 15, though of the very smallest sort, were left by the tide on the shore south of Cramond Island; and in 1769, two of the spermaceti kind, each 54 feet long, were cast ashore not far from the village of Cramond.

Minerals.—Free-stone abounds in several places, as also whin-stone, moor-stone, and granite. Iron-stone is found among the shore at Caroline Park; and there is a great appearance of coal on the sea side in the eastern part of Royston, and the adjacent lands of Wardie, where large seams are

* A smaller species of salmon, or the common salmon of a year old. Naturalists have not determined this point with certainty.

are perceivable both above and below the tide mark. The neighbouring people, when fuel is scarce, often carry off from thence parcels of coal, though of an exceeding poor quality. A pit was sunk in Pilfoun wood in 1788, but was soon abandoned on account of the badness of the coal; and there are in the links of Royston the vestiges of several pits. On the lands of Marchfield is a spring of mineral water, called the Well of Spaw, reckoned beneficial in scorbutic cases, and highly purgative when taken in quantities.

Village of Cramond.—The village of Cramond, situated on the east side of the Amon, at its junction with the Forth, contains 74 families, 300 inhabitants, mostly iron workmen, sailors, and day labourers. It has a harbour, (specified in the records of Exchequer as a creek within the port of Leith) to which belong 7 sloops, chiefly employed by the iron works, measuring 288 tons, and manned with 23 seamen and apprentices. The Amon is navigable only for the space of a quarter of a mile above its mouth.

Church, Patron, Stipend, and School.—The church was originally built in 1656, but has been frequently repaired and enlarged since that time. The patron is Mr Ramsay of Barnton. The stipend, as augmented in 1765, is, money, L. 58:15:0; barley, 44½ bolls; oats, 35½ bolls; wheat, 16 bolls; meal, 8 bolls; with a commodious manse, and a glebe of above 5 acres of rich land. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 10:2:11, with 4½ bolls of barley. The interest of L. 25 was granted by Sir John Inglis in 1786 for a Sunday-school. The fees for writing and English are 1 s. 4 d. the quarter; for Arithmetic and Latin 3 s. There are besides two private schools. The scholars at the three schools, taken together, may annually amount to 150.

Parochial

Parochial Funds.—The parochial funds amount to above L. 1220, yielding an annualrent of above L. 56; the collections at the church doors come to about L. 39; and the profits of the mortcloths to above L. 7 annually; making a total yearly income of above L. 102. With this sum, 41 ordinary, and 16 extraordinary poor, are supported and relieved, according to their several necessities; after which there commonly remains a small surplus, at the end of each year, to augment the capital fund. This is stated from the average of the receipts and disbursements for 10 years past, including in the former the collections on sacramental occasions, the average of which L. 6:4:0 annually; a trifling sum compared with the produce at the communion 1690, L. 20:5:0, and 1691, L. 23:15:0. Towards the end of the last, and beginning of the present century, the annual contributions were much the same as at present, while the average number of ordinary poor is now more than doubled.

Charitable Foundations.—Craigcrook mortification is an estate of above L. 300 *per annum*, which was mortified for charitable and pious uses, but not confined to this parish, by John Strachan of Craigcrook, about the 1720. The managers are two Advocates, two Writers to the Signet, and the whole Presbytery of Edinburgh, under the controul of the Lords of Session; and these managers are, in terms of the deed of mortification, directed "to employ a discreet person "to uplift the rents when due, and, as uplifted, to employ "the same as the foresaid persons order, to poor old men, "women, and orphans."

Population.—The population has of late years diminished considerably, as appears from the following statement, taken from the parish registers:

Baptisms,

	Baptiſms.			Burials.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
From 1680 to 1699	557	515	1072	680
1700 to 1719	543	509	1052	586
1720 to 1739	513	520	1033	674
1740 to 1759	511	451	962	480
1760 to 1779	386	373	759	451
Total in a century	2510	2368	4878	2871

About the 1750, when Dr Webſter made his inquiry into the numbers of the people in Scotland, the return from this pariſh was 1468 individuals. From an eſtimate taken in 1785, there were then 319 families, and 1340 ſouls, viz.

Families.		Individuals.
37	Gentlemen and farmers, (ſervants included), containing	309
20	Iron workmen	91
13	Seamen	56
11	Wrights, carpenter, cooper, turner	45
10	Gardeners	42
8	Weavers	41
9	Maſons	38
6	Smiths	25
5	Taylors	20
7	Brewer, baker, butcher, ſhoemaker, beadle, tide-water, and ſchoolmaſter	38
193	Common labourers, &c.	637
319		1340

Of

Of these	14 families, consist of	1 individual each, total	14
	76	2	152
	64	3	192
	54	4	216
	39	5	195
	24	6	144
	18	7	126
	13	8	104
	4	9	36
	2	10	20
	3	11	33
	2	12	24
	3	13	39
	1	14	14
	1	15	15
	1	16	16
	319		1340

Even this number has since diminished; for Mr Boger, the present minister of Cramond, having very obligingly taken a list of the parish, found, that, in the present year, 1790, it contained 299 families only, and 1112 souls. The causes of this diminution in the numbers of the people are, the removal of mechanics to towns, the failure of the oyster fishery, and the increase of pasture ground. Some years ago, a large property, consisting of five farms, was wholly turned into grass, and still remains in the same state.

Diseases.—Agues, some years ago, affected the common people so much during the spring and summer months, that the necessary husbandry work was with difficulty performed, for want of hands. This disease used to be exceedingly se-

vere

vere and diſtreſſing; but, ſince the year 1775, it has almoſt wholly diſappeared from this neighbourhood, which may be attributed, in a great meaſure, to the thorough draining of the grounds.

Roads and Seats.—The roads in this diſtrict are kept in excellent repair, being chiefly compoſed of granite broken into ſmall pieces, and ſtrewed on the middle of the road; after which, the ſides and ditches are cleared of rubbiſh, which is thrown over, and ſoon incorporates with the ſtones. The public road from Edinburgh to Queensferry, one of the pleaſanteſt and moſt frequented in Scotland, traverſes great part of the pariſh, croſſing the Amon at Cramond bridge. Many ſeats adorn this diſtrict. Royſtoun is one of the largeſt houſes in the three Lothians.

Eminent Men.—Of perſons meriting to be particularly mentioned, the moſt diſtinguiſhed eminent men, who were either natives of, or reſident proprietors in, the pariſh, are, 1ſt, John Elphinſtone, ſecond Lord Balmerinoch, a nobleman noted for his ſpirited oppoſition to the tyrannical proceedings of Charles I. for which he narrowly eſcaped loſing his head, and for being the beſt friend that the Covenanters ever had, as he ſpent a great fortune in ſupport of their cauſe. 2d, Sir Thomas Hope of Grantoun, well known as one of the ableſt and moſt ſucceſsful lawyers at the Scottiſh bar, to whoſe unremitted exertions, and ſound advice, the firm eſtabliſhment of the Preſbyterian mode of worſhip in this kingdom is in a great meaſure owing. 3d, Sir William Hope of Grantoun, his grandſon, who was diſtinguiſhed for ſuperior proficiency in all the faſhionable accompliſhments of the times in which he lived, particularly for great ſkill in fencing, on which he publiſhed a celebrated treatiſe. 4th, That fine ſcholar, and

pleaſant companion, but crafty and ſlippery ſtateſman, George Mackenzie, firſt Earl of Cromarty, whoſe numerous works are well known. 5th, John Law of Lauriſton, Comptroller General of the Finances in France, one of the moſt extraordinary characters that this or any other country has produced, to whoſe great merit and abilities ſufficient juſtice has not yet been done. 6th, George Cleghorn, an eminent phyſician in Dublin, the firſt perſon that eſtabliſhed what could, with any degree of propriety, be called an anatomical ſchool in Ireland. 7th, William Cleghorn, who was aſſociated with his uncle George, juſt now mentioned, as Profeſſor of Anatomy in Trinity College Dublin, but died ſoon afterwards in 1783, at the age of 28, univerſally regretted.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are 2 coaches, and 4 four-wheeled chaiſes in this pariſh; 7 licenſed ale-houſes. The corruption among the lower claſſes, ſays the Rev. Mr Bonar, the miniſter, is mournful; as perhaps in few country pariſhes, the liberties and vices of the town are any where more accurately copied.

NUM-

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF DALMENY.

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS ROBERTSON, F. R. S. EDIN.

Situation and Extent.

THIS parish is situated in the shire and presbytery of Linlithgow, in the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is, from east to west, near 4 miles long, and between 2 and 3 broad: It is bounded on the east by the parish of Cramond; on the south by Cramond and Kirkliston; on the west by Abercorn; and on the north by the Firth of Forth. There is a district of it upon the west, not included within the above limits, called *Auldcathy*, entirely disjoined from it by the parishes of Abercorn and Kirkliston, and which anciently, it is said, formed a separate parish. The lands of Auldcathy are, from east to west, about a mile and a half long; and, from south to north, near a mile broad. They lie about 4 miles east from Linlithgow; partly upon the south, and partly upon the north, of the great road between Linlithgow and Edinburgh.

Name, and Language.—*Dumanay*, the original name of the parish, is said to mean, in the Gaelic, a *black heath*; of which, probably, a great portion of the higher grounds in it once consisted. The Gaelic, or Celtic, was the original tongue of the

the whole Island; and Gaelic names, it may be observed, still prevail to a very great extent in it, particularly in Scotland; for, although a foreign language was brought hither from the Continent by the ancestors of the greater part of the present inhabitants, many original names, particularly those of places, were naturally retained. Thus, *Dundas* (a place in this parish) is said to be the Gaelic for "hill of fallow deer *;" *Moss* hill, for a "hill uncultivated." Instances of such derivations are numerous in the neighbourhood, and elsewhere; as the *Forth*, or the "water;" *Inch Garvy*, or "rough island;" *Kirkliston*, or "a place inclosed on a river;" *Linlithgow*, or "dog's pool;" *Torphichen*, or "fight-hill;" *Calder*, or "oak-"wood." The language which was brought from the Continent, and which is now general over the Island, was partly introduced by the Anglo-Saxons, in the fifth century, into England; and partly by the Dano-Saxons, in the ninth and eleventh, both into England and Scotland. The Dano-Saxon has continued to be spoken in the greater part of Scotland, and particularly what is called the *Lowlands*, with little deviation from the original, till near the present times, in which it has been giving place very rapidly to the modern English language. The cause of this, independent of the comparative merits or demerits of the two dialects, has been the union of the Scottish and English crowns; from which, as England is the larger and wealthier country, and is, besides, the court end of the Island, the English tongue has gained the ascendancy, and become the standard of fashion and of propriety.

Surface

* Horns of deer have lately been dug up in its skirts; and some bones of such dimensions, as render it probable that they belonged to the moose-deer, or some other of the largest of the stag species.

Surface and Air.—The parish lies high in the middle, declines somewhat to the west, has a very considerable declivity to the south, and still more to the north, where it terminates with a bold bank upon the Forth. Within it are three long rocky and woody ridges, or rather little hills, Mons-hill, Dundas hill, and Craigie-hill; the prospects from which are both remarkably extensive and diversified. The view from Mons-hill, in particular, has been celebrated for its almost unequalled compass and beauty. Standing upon the top of this ridge, you see the mountain of Ben-Lomond on the west; the Ochil and Lomond hills to the north; North Berwick-Law, the Bass, and Isle of May, to the east; Pentland and Lammer-muir hills to the south. Besides the Forth, and the numerous towns, villages, seats, woody hills, and rising grounds, on each bank of it, the charming park of Barnbougle lies immediately under the eye, characterised for its bold waving surface, composed of the finest heights and lawns, and also for the variety, elegance, and fancy, of the rides within its circuit. The prospect extends, in general, as far as the eye can reach; and sixteen counties, in whole or in part, are said to be within the view. Different travellers have remarked, that this scenery is among the finest in Europe. This may account for the salubrity of the air, for which the parish has been noted; owing, perhaps, to its high situation, and to its being guarded from the east and west winds by the hills within its bounds. The village of Dalmeny, which lies delightfully situated, nearly in the line between Mons-hill and Dundas-hill, is, from this circumstance, protected from the north-east and south-west winds; the former the most baleful, and the latter the most violent, in this country. The longevity of its inhabitants has been often remarked: Mr Nasmith, the late minister, who was 63 years in office here, died at 91; Mrs Nasmith near the same age; the school-

master

maſter and beadle above 80; ſo that the four contemporaries made up above 340 years. Near this village, three perſons of one family died this year, whoſe ages, taken together, were about 240 years. From the pariſh regiſter it appears, that, in the courſe of theſe 36 years paſt, 35 perſons have died between 50 and 60 years of age; 48 between 60 and 70; 58 between 70 and 80; 26 between 80 and 90; and 3 at 90 and upwards. The purity of the air has, among other conſiderations, occaſioned a great number of gentlemens ſons to be ſent as boarders to the pariſh ſchool here.

Soil, Acres, and Rent.—The ſoil of the higher grounds is, in general, a ſhallow poor clay, for the moſt part on a cold bottom, and which, in ſeveral places, borders on till. That of almoſt all Auldcathy is nearly the ſame. The harveſt, on this account, is near two weeks later than in the neighbouring pariſhes of Cramond and Kirkliſton. At the ſame time, there are ſome conſiderable tracts, particularly the declivities and lower lying lands, which are a good loam; but, in ſeveral places, interminxed with ſand. In this pariſh are alſo a few ſpots of what is called *perpetual ſoil*, exceedingly fertile, and which have had no dung, it is ſaid, in the memory of man. Part of the miniſter's garden is of this kind, which has been long known to produce great crops; and, of late, ſurpriſing ones of potatoes have been reared. For experiment's ſake, potatoes were lately planted on a portion of it, ſix years running, and the laſt crop was as good as the firſt. Dung was applied one year, but the plants ran to ſtalks and leaves; the roots were numerous, but very ſmall. The number of acres in the whole pariſh is above 4500. Hills, plantations, avenues, &c. may occupy about 500 of theſe; about 2300 are in paſture, and 1700 in tillage. Rent is from 6 s. to 40 s. the acre: The greater part lets at from 20 s. to 30 s.; the

the beſt land from 30s. to 40s. The total rent cannot be exactly aſcertained, as in ſome farms it is partly paid in victual, the price of which varies every year; but it may probably be eſtimated at about L. 5000 Sterling yearly. The valued rent is L. 9620 Scots.

Culture.—From the nature of the ſoil, which is in great part wet, the difficulty in culture is to keep the lands clean; hence turnip crops alſo, and the winter feeding of cattle, are in many places debarred. On account of the diſtance from great towns, dung can hardly be conveyed thence; and little more of courſe is uſed, than what is made on each particular farm. There is a bed of ſhell marl in a marſh adjoining to Dundas-hill, but it has been little wrought. Lime, which is in the near neighbourhood, has been applied to a conſiderable extent. The principal white crop raiſed, is oats; next barley and wheat. The rotation has here, as in ſo many other places, been much amended of late years, by introducing green crops, and by ſummer fallowing; two of the moſt capital improvements in huſbandry. Two horſe ploughs upon Small's plan, another great improvement, are alſo coming into general uſe. Almoſt every farm is encloſed and ſubdivided by hedges, hedgerows, and belts of planting. The farmers here are both induſtrious and intelligent; and, indeed, this may be ſaid now, of the greater part of the farmers in the three Lothians, and in ſeveral other counties. As rents, however, ſeem to be too high in many places, it is to be hoped, from the great number of well informed and public ſpirited gentlemen in Scotland, that ſuch leaſes will be granted, not only enabling the farmers to live, but to live eaſily, to make experiments, to run riſks, and conſequently to promote knowledge and improvements in huſbandry. A contrary courſe, would both eſſentially endanger

danger agriculture, and the population which depends on it. We know the happy ſtate of the greater part of England, where rents are moderate, and the farmers are enjoying in ſecurity, that plenty and comfort, which are the rewards of their labours. Agriculture may be affirmed to be (without at all derogating from manufactures and trade) one of the moſt permanent pillars on which any nation can reſt; and they would highly deſerve the name of patriots, who ſhould ſtretch forth a generous hand to cheriſh huſbandmen, promote improvements beneficial both to the landlord and to the tenant, and enſure the moſt ſtable and virtuous income which a people can poſſeſs.

Depopulation and the cauſe of it.—From all accounts the pariſh was formerly much more populous than it is at preſent. According to Dr Webſter, the numbers 30 or 40 years ago, were 1102; but as his ſurvey appears in this pariſh, and perhaps in moſt others, to have been confined to *examinable* perſons only, the whole number of ſouls was probably then 1300 or more. In 1776, the number of ſouls was 1034; in the preſent year 1790, it is only 907. The annual average of births for a century paſt, is 33; in the former half of it from 1691 to 1740, it is 39; in the latter from 1741 to 1790, it is only 27. And the decline (needleſs to be ſtated) has been gradual; from 1771 to 1780 the number is 25, from 1781 to 1790 it is 18. The depopulation appears to have been occaſioned ſolely by one large diſtrict having been turned from tillage into paſture. This tract may conſiſt perhaps of 1500 acres, upon which formerly, it is ſaid, were 15 or 16 farmers; at preſent, and for ſome time paſt, there has not been one. Probably the decreaſe of inhabitants in ſeveral other pariſhes has been owing very much to a ſimilar cauſe. The union of farms has often been ſtated as a cauſe

of

of depopulation; but the fact ſeems very diſputable. In many inſtances population has been known to increaſe, on a great farmer's ſucceeding to a number of ſmall ones. And the reaſon is plain to thoſe who make an attentive obſervation. A ſmall farmer has ſeldom any cottagers, his men ſervants are unmarried, and lodge in his houſe or offices. The reverſe is the caſe of a great farmer; almoſt the whole of his men ſervants have ſeparate houſes, are married, and have a numerous and healthy progeny. The number of farmer-families is indeed greater in ſmall farms, but the whole population appears in ſeveral inſtances, at leaſt, to be leſs. But even admitting it to be greater in general, the huſbandry is for the moſt part bad, puny crops are raiſed, men may be more numerous, but both men and beaſts are almoſt in a ſtarving condition. The recent and excellent practice of uſing two horſe ploughs, has alſo been ſtated as a cauſe of depopulation, as it reduces the number of hands neceſſary to be employed; but beſides the expence of culture being thereby leſſened, and the value of land conſequently raiſed, it may be obſerved, that were waſte lands cultivated, and the culture of others carried to the extent, and to the perfection which it ought, and which it is to be hoped, will one day be the caſe, the numbers of thoſe who ſubſiſt by huſbandry, would become greater than they have ever yet been. At any rate, population is far from depending ſolely upon agriculture.

Wages and Expence of Living.—The wages of a day-labourer are now generally 1 s., of a carpenter 1 s. 6 d., of a maſon 1 s. 8 d., of a maid-ſervant 25 s. the half year, of a ploughman between L. 12 and L. 13 annually, nearly one half of which is paid in money, and the other in oat-meal. Beſides which, ploughmen have generally a free houſe, a lit-

tle garden, carriage of coals and their victuals in harveſt. A day-labourer earns between L. 14 and L. 15 yearly; but from this the rent of his houſe and garden, which is ordinarily about 15 s. is to be deducted. Their wives are occaſionally employed by the farmers on the fields; at other times, beſides earning ſomething by ſpinning, waſhing, &c. they frequently nurſe children which turns to great emolument. Their children are alſo at times employed by the farmers. In harveſt the wages given to the Highlanders who come in great numbers to cut down the crop of moſt part of Scotland, are perhaps at an average, about 8 d. a day, with their victuals. The expence of living among the common people, is at leaſt, no greater in general, than their incomes. However numerous their families may be, they ſeldom receive, nor need any aid from the poor's funds. Their food conſiſts of oat-meal porridge, oat-cakes and peaſe-bannocks, barley-broth, with greens, potatoes, butter-milk and water. Some begin now to uſe wheaten bread and ſmall-beer, but ſeldom any eat butcher meat. The luxuries in which they indulge, are tea, and what is worſe, whiſky. Scarcely any fail to put their children to ſchool to learn Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic. In general, ſervants, labourers, and tradeſmen, live worſe, and perform leſs labour than in England. But while thoſe of the ſame claſs in England have better food and more of it, it appears that in fact, they daily eat up their all; and hence when their families are any-wiſe numerous, recourſe muſt be had to the pariſh money. On the contrary, in Scotland, many half ſtarve themſelves, in order to make ſavings; not a few lay by ſeveral pounds Sterling, which they reſerve for old age, for putting their children to apprenticeſhips, or for otherwiſe bettering their own condition, or that of their families. A ſpirit for enterpriſe and for riſing in the world, characteriſes the Scots in general; and this

has

has ſo remarkably pervaded all ranks for theſe 40 or 50 years paſt, that perhaps no people have in ſo ſhort a period, made ſo great advances in induſtry, agriculture, manufactures, refinement, public revenue, and private wealth, as the people of Scotland.

Poor.—The funds conſiſt of the rent of poors-lands, intereſt of poors-money, weekly collections, dues of mort-cloths, &c. and the hire of a hearſe which was given to the pariſh by the family of Dundas. The annual income from theſe funds, at an average for theſe ten years paſt, is about L. 41, and the number of the ordinary poor, about 25.

School.—Engliſh and writing are taught at 1 s. 6 d. the quarter: Arithmetic, Latin, and French, at 2 s. 6 d. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary, which conſiſts both of the pariſh ſalary and of the intereſt of a mortification of L. 300, amounts to about L. 25 yearly, including the emoluments of the ſeſſion-clerkſhip. The number of ſcholars within the pariſh is from 30 to 40; of boarders from 20 to 30, at 20 guineas *per annum.*

Church, &c.—The pariſh church, from the ſtyle of its architecture, which is Saxon, or a mixed ſpecies between the Greek and Gothic, ſeems to be 7 or 8 hundred years old. It is a very elegant ſmall fabric, all of cut ſtone, 84 feet long by 25 broad, but the breadth diminiſhes towards the tribune, or rounded eaſt end. The great door and windows have ſemicircular pediments ornamented with many mouldings, and ſupported on the ſides by ſingle round columns, without any diminution. The windows have a very elegant Grecian appearance, and were it not for the Gothic capi-

tals

tals of the columns, and the shafts being too thick for their heighth, the whole might be taken for Greek architecture. But the chief beauty of this church is in the inside, which strikes every spectator when entering from the west. About one half of the church on the east end is covered with vaulted roofs, commencing with a large semicircular arch, and divided nearly into two equal parts, by a smaller arch farther east. The arches are richly adorned with successive tires of mouldings, chiefly in a starry shape: The small one has a very elegant enrichment introduced into it, consisting of a slender reed strung at distances with little cylinders. The church of Warthwick in England, near Carlisle, and which was built before the times of William the Conqueror, has a striking resemblance to this at Dalmeny, but is far inferior in point of embellishment. The manse was built in 1777. The stipend was augmented the same year, and consists of 5 bolls of wheat; 33 bolls 3 pecks 1 lippie barley; 9 bolls 1 peck 1 lippie meal; 16 bolls oats; and L. 54 : 17 : $8\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling, amounting in whole, this present year, to about L. 109 Sterling, the price of wheat being between 23 and 24 s.; of barley between 17 and 18 s.; of meal between 16 and 17 s.; and of oats between 14 and 15 s. the boll. The glebe is between 5 and 6 acres of good soil. The last presentation was given by the Earl of Rosebery; against which the late Earl of Hopetoun protested, as Vice-Patron, but waved his claim to the exercise of that right till the next vacancy.

Minerals.—A coal pit has been recently sunk on the Earl of Hopetoun's lands of Auldcathy; but the success of the trial is not yet known. Appearances of coal have also lately been observed on Mr Dundas's estate of Newhalls. There is whinstone rock, and also abundance of that species of grey granite called

called *moor-ſtone* *, of which the many excellent roads in this pariſh are made. There may be mentioned a ſingular baſaltic rock upon the ſouth ſide of Dundas-hill, 250 yards long, and generally about 60 or 70 feet high. This rock is almoſt perpendicular in its front, and conſiſts of light blueiſh granite, of a very cloſe and fine texture: The maſſes are in an irregular columnar ſtate, ſeparated by channels or furrows; but many well defined regular priſms are to be obſerved. At the foot of the ſteep, and almoſt perpendicular bank on which this rock lies, is a moraſs of about 9 acres of ſhell marl. But what is chiefly remarkable and valuable as a mineral in this pariſh, is the vaſt bed of free-ſtone upon the ſea-coſt. A quarry of this excellent ſtone has been wrought, to the extent of 3 acres, a little to the weſt of the borough of Queenſferry; and, beſides ſupplying the demands of the neighbourhood, great quantities of it were privately exported for building the fortifications and quay of Dunkirk. All the fine ſtone carvings of Earl Fife's elegant houſe at Banff were executed here upon the ſpot, and ſent thither in caſes by ſea. A large baptiſmal font, 5 feet in diameter, intended for the Continent, with its bottom uppermoſt, and covered with ſea-weed and ſhell fiſh, lies oppoſite to this quarry a good way within the ſea mark; and which the antiquary might fancy to be one of the remains of ſome Poppiſh church once ſtanding there, that had been overwhelmed by the ſea. Grindſtones are manufactured at this quarry, and annually exported to the countries on the Baltic. It is ſaid, that here, and elſewhere on the coaſt in this pariſh, there is ſuch a quantity of free-ſtone, that ſcarcely any demand could exhauſt it.

Antiquities.

* Whin-ſtone, or porphyry (called toad-ſtone, rag-ſtone, &c. in England) differs from moor-ſtone in this, that the former contains iron, and alſo ſome lime.

Antiquities.—1. About a mile to the weſt of Barnbougle Caſtle, on the top of a high ſea bank, is an ancient cairn, called by the country people the *Earl Cairny*, of a circular ſhape, 500 feet in circumference, and 24 high in the middle; raiſed perhaps for the purpoſe of a ſepulchral monument. The ſtones are all ſmall, conſiſting of granite, whin-ſtone, quartz, iron-ſtone, and lime-ſtone, and appear to have been carried to it by the hand from the neighbouring grounds. A portion only of the cairn now remains; the greater part of the ſtones having been taken away. 2. In that part of the pariſh which lies at the weſt end of Queensferry, cloſe by the ſhore, are the remains of a monaſtery, founded about the 1330 by one of the lairds of Dundas, for Carmelite Friars. The church, a ſmall building in a very plain Gothic ſtyle, is ſtill nearly entire. 3. Near a mile to the weſt of this, upon a high ſea bank, where a farm houſe now ſtands, there were, about 40 or 50 years ſince, conſiderable ruins of probably an old Roman *ſpeculatorium*, conſiſting of a large carved window, a ſquare pillar, and a very conſiderable quantity of hewn ſtones, which, it is ſaid, were carried to Dunkirk. There were found ſeveral ſilver medals of Marcus Antoninus, with a *Victory* on the reverſe; alſo, the carved handle of a copper veſſel, and the bottom of an earthen urn, with the word *adjecti*; the reſt obliterated.

Antient Families, and Eminent Men.—1. The family of Dundas of Dundas, from which that of Arniſton, and others, are derived, has been traced by genealogiſts * back to the Saxon Kings of England; and that family has uninterruptedly enjoyed a great eſtate in this pariſh, in the male line, for near 700 years. The preſent proprietor is the 24th in deſcent from the

* Sir James Dalrymple, Crawford, Niſbet, &c.

the firſt laird of Dundas; and has in his poſſeſſion one of the oldeſt original writings in Scotland, being a charter granted about the year 1120. The ſtately caſtle of the family, erected on a loafty ſituation, ſtill remains, but is uninhabited. 2. The Craigies of Craigy were another antient and conſiderable family; one of them being a witneſs to Dundas's charter juſt mentioned. After ſome generations they terminated in an heireſs, who, in 1387, married Sir John Stewart, who thence took the title of Craigiehall, where their poſterity continued till about 1640, when the eſtate of Craigiehall was ſold; but the family ſtill continue reſpectable in the pariſh. 3. The Mowbrays of Barnbougle have likewiſe a claim to high antiquity; the name of Philip Mowbray of Barnbougle occurring about 1290. In that name (of which were ſeveral Dukes of Norfolk, Earls of Nottingham, &c.) the eſtate remained till the 1620, when Sir Robert Mowbray ſold it; whoſe repreſentative, it is ſaid, is ſtill in the pariſh, but reduced to the condition of a common ſervant. Barnbougle Caſtle ſtill remains, and is inhabited, but is no ways remarkable, except for its fanciful ſituation within the ſea mark, and for its embrazures preſenting a ſtrong front to the ſea. 4. The late William Wilkie, D. D. born in the village of Echlin in this pariſh, Oct. 5. 1721, and educated at the ſchool of Dalmeny. After revolving the hiſtory of antient families in this and other pariſhes, many of which have fallen into decline, and may perhaps paſs into oblivion, it may be obſerved, that the memory of a man of genius and learning is leſs ſubject to periſh. The *Epigoniad* will probably be always admired. Without ſpeaking of the happy choice of the ſubject, and of the merit of many of the characters in that Epic poem, it may be enough to ſay, that the epiſode of Hercules, taken by itſelf, is ſufficient to entitle the poet to perpetual fame. Dr Wilkie was diſtinguiſhed for a ſingular compaſs of knowledge, and chiefly

chiefly for an originality of genius. In his youth he cultivated a small farm, and struggled long and hard with penury. He was afterwards minister of Ratho; and lastly professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of St Andrews, where he died in 1773, in his 52d year.

Population Table for 1790.

Souls - -	907	1 family consists of	19
Families -	218	2 - - of	22
Males - -	429	Great heritors, and who	
Females - -	478	reside - -	3
Aged below 10 -	204	Lesser heritors -	3
—— between 10 and 20	172	Very small proprietors	17
—— 20 and 50	347	Clergy (Established)	1
—— 50 and 70	141	Clergy (Seceders) -	1
—— 70 and 100	43	Schoolmasters -	1
34 families consist of	1	Attornies - -	1
40 - - of	2	Surgeons - -	1
36 - - of	3	Great farmers -	15
30 - - of	4	Small ditto -	10
34 - - of	5	Bakers - -	2
11 - - of	6	Millers * - -	1
10 - - of	7	Ferriers - -	1
10 - - of	8	Smiths - -	4
2 - - of	9	Carpenters, &c. -	10
4 - - of	10	Masons - -	3
2 - - of	11	Taylors - -	1
1 - - of	14	Shoemakers - -	5
1 - - of	17	Weavers - -	6
		Gardeners	

* There is a flour mill, a barley mill, and an oat-meal mill at Cramond-bridge, at the last of which about 1000 bolls of oats are annually milled.

Gardeners -	10	Shepherds -	5
Slaters and glaziers	1	Houſe ſervants -	78
Overſeers -	5	Miller ſervants -	4
Midwives -	1	Seamen - -	12
Carters, &c. -	7	Widows -	51
Horſe-letters -	2	Widowers -	17
Inn-keepers -	1	Seceders -	142
Small ale-houſes -	5	Reſiding in 6 large villages - -	530
Chaiſe drivers -	6	Reſiding in 5 ſmall villages - -	123
Plowmen, &c. -	76		
Day-labourers, &c.	39		
Work horſes -	150	Bakewell's breed	400
Milk cows -	130	Dorſetſhire ſheep	10
Black cattle, young cows and horſes	800	Abyſſinian ditto *	2
Scotch ſheep -	2020	Deer - -	30

In the pariſh are 2 coaches, 3 four-wheeled chaiſes, and 3 ditto belonging to the inn at Newhalls. There are more ploughs, carts, and other implements of huſbandry, than are uſually employed by the farmers.

* Theſe are part of a little flock brought here by George Dundas, Eſq; of Dundas, Captain of the Winterton Eaſt Indiaman; the reſt died on their paſſage home. Their fleece is hairy like goats; but next the ſkin, is a very fine ſoft down.

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF SORBIE.

By the Rev. Dr ISAAC DAVIDSON.

Situation, Soil, &c.

THE pariſh of Sorbie, in the ſhire and preſbytery of Wigton, and ſynod of Galloway, is bounded by Wigton Bay and Solway Firth on the eaſt; by the pariſh of Whitehorn on the ſouth; by the ſame pariſh and that of Glaſſerton on the weſt; and by Kirkinner on the north.

From the ſouth, where it joins Whitehorn, it ſtretches ſix miles northward to Kirkinner; and from the eaſt, on Wigton Bay, it runs as far to the weſt, where it unites with the pariſh of Glaſſerton. This is its broadeſt part. From Garlieſtown Bay on the eaſt, to the neareſt part of Whitehorn pariſh due weſt, is about a mile and a furlong. This is its narroweſt part.

Veſſels ſail from Garlieſtown to Whitehaven in four hours, to the Iſle of Man in three, to Liverpool in twenty-four, to Dublin in twenty-four, and to Port Greenock in thirty.

The face of the country is beautiful, being variegated with little hills and fertile plains. In their ſeaſons, the richeſt herbage, and the moſt luxuriant crops of grain, every where appear. Through the whole year, there is a delightful verdure, leſſened, but ſeldom altogether deſtroyed, either by

froſt

froſt or ſnow. In the year 1775, when the whole iſland of Great Britain was almoſt buried in ſnow, this pariſh preſented the eye with its favourite colour; and green fields and happy flocks were pleaſing objects to the traveller, and enriched their owners. The ſoil is not deep, but exceeding fine, yielding an increaſe equal to Hertfordſhire.

To the care and ſuperior ſkill of the preſent Earl of Galloway, the fertility and beauty of this pariſh are in a great meaſure to be aſcribed. His Lordſhip lives in it ſeveral months every year, and has ſhewn much attention to agriculture, breeding of cattle, and planting. When he came to the poſſeſſion of his antient and extenſive family eſtate in the year 1765, this pariſh, like the country in general, was almoſt in a ſtate of nature. There were few incloſures; the roads were narrow and unformed; and ſcarce a tree appeared to pleaſe the eye. Things are now totally different. The fields are all incloſed, and well cultivated. The roads are of the proper breadth, well formed, and made of good materials; and plantations every where preſent themſelves.

Galloway Houſe was built by the late Earl, and forms part of a landſcape truly beautiful and grand. Garlieſtown Bay is on the north; and Rigg, or Hunter's Bay, is on the ſouth of it. From its windows are ſeen the richeſt fields; an indented coaſt, adorned with growing improvements; a cluſter of iſles, and the lofty mountains of Cumberland and Man, appearing at a proper diſtance. The preſent Earl has made great additions and improvements. The principal rooms are ſpacious, and the library is ſtored with many thouſand valuable volumes.

Lord Galloway's management of his eſtate deſerves particular notice. The lands about Galloway Houſe are well divided, and the fields are completely ſheltered by the plantations, which produces many advantages. The graſs ſprings early;

early; and the cattle, defended from the ſtorm, feed at their eaſe. The belts of planting, being carried along the ridges of the hills, improve the appearance of the country, and give warmth to all below them.

The Earl has ſtudied the nature of foreſt trees, and the different ways of raiſing and treating them, with much attention. Under his care trees grow on every expoſure; and every ſpecies of them thrive as well about Galloway Houſe as in any part of England. The pine-aſter, or maritime pine, is of ſo much uſe here, and indeed in ſuch places as are much expoſed, as to deſerve the greateſt attention. It is hardy, and makes vigorous ſhoots, almoſt on the ſea-beach; and is an excellent defence for other trees. The proper method of raiſing this moſt uſeful plant in the nurſery inſures its ſucceſs. The ſeed ought to be ſown on rich ground, in the month of March. Sixteen months afterward, the plant ought to be taken up in moiſt weather; its tap root ſhortened, and the young tree planted in a rich ground well pulverized. It muſt be watered for ten or twelve days, till the new roots begin to ſtrike. Thus tranſplanted, it muſt ſtand for eighteen or twenty-four months, and then planted out on any expoſure. Tranſplanting and cutting them, as above deſcribed, make them put out many lateral roots, which find food for the plant, and give it firmneſs in its ſtation. Whereas, if it is permitted to remain two years in the ſeed-bed, it puts down only one root, and is incapable of reſiſting the ſtorm. Gentlemen, therefore, who plant near the ſhore, ought to give the maritime pine as much ſoil as poſſible, and raiſe a defence for it in its infant ſtate. Its future ſervice to them, and their poſterity, will amply repay their care and expence.

The Scotch fir is of great uſe when planted on the ſouth-weſt of other trees, by defending them from our great-

eſt

ſt and moſt frequent ſtorms. While ſpeaking of firs, it may be proper to obſerve, that reſinous plants have two ſeaſons of growth; the firſt in the ſpring, and the ſecond after the early harveſt rains. Early planting is conſequently advantageous. All trees planted here before new year's day thrive beſt, excepting ſuch as are intended for wet ground, which ought to be planted in the month of March. The oak, aſh, beech, alder, firs *, &c. thrive here, and are equal to any in their quality. Lord Galloway has found that pruning makes them grow with great vigour. By experiment it appears, that plants which were pruned, advanced, at the rate of four years in ſix, before thoſe which were not pruned. This treatment beſt ſuits trees which have been taken from the nurſery, and ſhould be attended to in the winter of the ſecond or third year after they have been planted out. In the plantations of a circumference of ſixteen miles, trees of every kind grow with the greateſt luxuriance; and ſome of them have riſen, in a few years, to the height of fifty feet. His Lordſhip's deſigns are great; and he is accompliſhing them, by planting, at the rate of 200,000 trees every year.

Lakes, &c.—There is a very fine freſh water lake on the north-weſt border of the pariſh, above three miles in circumference, well ſtored with perch, pike, and eels. It is called Dowalton Lake, becauſe a great family of the name of M'Dowal were proprietors of it, and their place of reſidence or town was near it. The lake ſurrounds the remains of a houſe and garden. The houſe, it is ſuppoſed, was fortified, and afforded a ſafe retreat to its Lords, when feudal and allodial rights produced diſcord and war. The fiſh in it are never caught for ſale. From this lake a rivulet flows, through a rich valley, to Garlieſtown Bay.

Sea

* The larix, or larch, is found here to be of quick growth. Its timber is excellent, laſts long under water, and reſiſts the worm.

Sea Coast, Fish, Tides, &c.—There are upwards of twelve miles of sea-coast, including the bays. The shore is rather bold to the south, but becomes flat at Rigg or Hunter's Bay; and continues so to Garlieston, where it rises again. On the whole, it may be called a rocky shore, though in Garlieston Bay there is a deep, soft clay, on which vessels lie in the greatest safety, and have the best anchorage. Flounders, soles, skate, cod, crabs, lobsters, oysters, with many other kinds of fish, abound on the coast. Herrings were found some time ago in vast shoals; and there is reason to believe that they still visit this shore. Some years ago they were caught with great success; and it appears from a minute of kirk-session, dated September 1. 1700, that the inhabitants were so anxious in the pursuit of them as to be difficultly restrained from fishing on the Lord's day. The people are now fully engaged in agriculture: Fishing is nearly neglected, and the fishing boats on the coast are very few. The sea-animals are the same with those on the eastern coast of Great Britain. The sea-weeds are of the common kind. A few tons of kelp are made from them every two or three years. Some are spread upon the land, without any preparation; but the best farmers use them in composts, which produce a quick and strong fermentation. The courses of the tides are as follow. The tide flows straight out from Wigton Bay six hours, and takes the same time to return. At Garlieston, the tide flows five hours from the south, and ebbs seven. It is high water at Garlieston at a quarter of an hour before eleven o'clock A. M. at the change and full of the moon. There are no light houses, beacons, or artificial land-marks, on the coast; but there are several places where light-houses might be erected with great advantage to navigation.

The head-lands are Crugleton and Eagerness; and the principal

principal bays are thoſe of Garlieſtown; Rigg, now called Hunter's Bay, in compliment to Captain Hunter of the navy, who came to an anchor in it, with Lord Garlies on board; and Ports Allan, Whaple, and Innerwell. Many other ſmaller bays indent the coaſt in a moſt beautiful manner, where veſſels, loaded with lime and ſea-ſhells, deliver their cargoes.

Garlieſtown is well ſituated for a harbour, not only to ſerve its own neighbourhood, but all the trade of the weſt of England, from Liverpool to Carliſle; that of the weſt of Scotland to Wales and England; and that of Ireland and Man. But no trade would profit ſo much by it as that large and important one from Whitehaven to Dublin. This great trade, to which one tide is of vaſt conſequence, is conſiderably retarded by the ſouth, ſouth-weſt, and weſt winds, which are more frequent there than any other. Were there a good harbour at Garlieſtown, the ſhips bound from Whitehaven to Dublin might come over to it with ſouth and ſouth-weſt winds, and deliver their cargoes much ſooner than they do at preſent. To this deſirable end the tides are particularly favourable.

Cattle, Wool, &c.—The black cattle of this pariſh and neighbourhood are of the beſt quality. Lord Galloway thinks he has improved the ſize and ſhape of the original breed, by introducing Weſtmorland bulls. His Lordſhip gave new life to a ſpirit of emulation among the breeders, by a premium of a very handſome ſilver cup, which he beſtowed every year on the perſon who produced the beſt four year old ox or cow. With reſpect to Galloway cattle in general, thoſe in the muirs differ only from thoſe in the improved part of the country in their ſize. The laſt deſcription of cattle weigh when fat 50, the firſt about 40 ſtone. Moſt of the

cattle

cattle are without horns, and are preferred to ſuch as have them; becauſe they are ſuppoſed to be deeper in the fore quarter, are in leſs danger of being gored by each other, and are more compact in their ſhape. The prevailing colours are black and brown; white is not eſteemed. They are even in the back, ſquare and deep in the rib, and ſhort in the leg; and ſo healthy, that they fatten ſooner than any other. They coſt in the country, when

One year old	-	-	-	L.	2	10	0
Two years old	-	-	-		5	10	0
Three ditto	-	-	-	-	7	0	0
Four ditto	-	-	-	-	8	8	0

They uſed to be ſent to the Engliſh markets when four year old; but now too many of them are ſent ſooner. This county ſends many thouſands to theſe markets every year; and this pariſh breeds annually between five and ſix hundred. They are about twenty-eight days in travelling to the Norfolk markets, and coſt about 18 s. per head driving and feeding. When they have finiſhed their journey, it is ſuppoſed they have loſt, through fatigue, above one-eight of their weight. To this add the loſſes occaſioned by diſeaſes, by frights, heats, bad water, lameneſs, and other cauſes. Such loſſes affect not only the proprietors of droves, but alſo the public, by advancing the price of beef. Here the unfriendly operation of the ſalt-laws appears in a very clear light. Were it not for them, the vaſt herds of cattle produced by this truly fertile country might be ſlaughtered and ſalted at home for the uſe of his Majeſty's navy, trading veſſels, &c.

If a ſpirit of manufacture were once excited, wool, of which the high part of this country produces a vaſt quantity; flax, which might be cultivated with great advantage on the deepeſt of the lands; and other raw materials, might be wrought

wrought up into articles of commerce; and a Leeds or an Halifax would perhaps grow out of one of our ſmall villages.

Some of the moſt antient breed of Galloway horſes are among the mountains and leſs improved parts of the country. They are ſaid to be very hardy, eaſily maintained, and high ſpirited. This breed is well attended to in Cumberland, where it is much improved by croſſes with Engliſh horſes. A larger breed is preferred here, as being more fit for the purpoſes of draught and agriculture. Through the attention of the noblemen and gentry, this neighbourhood has a breed of horſes fit for the ſaddle, and carriages of every kind. The colours of horſes are various; but the dark bay, with black legs and feet, is preferred. Their ſhape is generally good. They were originally galloways, and ſaid to have ſprung from a Spaniſh breed, which came aſhore on this coaſt when one of the veſſels of the Armada was wrecked upon it, after ſailing round by the Pentland Firth.

Population.—The population here has been increaſing for ſome time paſt.

The preſent amount is	1069
Of theſe there are males	515
Females	554
In the village of Garlieſtown there are about	450
In ditto of Sorbie about	80
The average of births	23
Ditto of deaths	14
Ditto of marriages	8
Under ten years old	276
From 10 to 50	586
From 50 to 80	180
From 80 to 100	27

There are farmers	43
Corn mills	3
Cloth mills	2
Mechanics	63
Apprentices	11
Seamen	30
Foreigners	1
Perſons born in England	24
Perſons born in Wales	1

Nobility, one family.

Clergy	3

One of the Church of England, the other two of the Eſtabliſhed Church.

Epiſcopalians	24
Seceders, Anto-Burghers	60
Catholics	4
Cameronians	2
Merchants	11

In the year 1774 ſeveral families emigrated to America.

Agriculture, &c.—The general rule of farming is, to have one-third of the land in tillage, and two-thirds in paſture. Oats, barley, and peaſe, are the grains generally raiſed. Potatoes have been long cultivated with much ſucceſs. Wheat has not ſucceeded, unleſs with a few, though the ſoil is very like that of Hertfordſhire. The pariſh does not only ſupply itſelf, but exports a large quantity of grain and potatoes to London, Liverpool, Dublin, the Iſle of Man, and the Weſt of Scotland. Every field having produced its number of crops, is laid down with red, white, or yellow clovers, rib, or rye graſs ſeeds. The ſeed time commences in the beginning of March, and the harveſt about the middle of Auguſt.

There

There is marle in the pariſh. Lime, from Cumberland, is delivered in the different bays at 1 s. the Carliſle buſhel, which is equal to three Wincheſter buſhels; and ſea ſhells at 1 s. 6 d. per ton. Sea ſhells are the beſt of all manures; and in this neighbourhood they are inexhauſtible. Every tide, accompanied by an eaſt wind, brings in great quantities of this moſt valuable commodity. With theſe different manures, rich crops and fine cattle are raiſed; but, if the preſent treatment of a moſt generous ſoil be perſiſted in, there is reaſon to believe that it will be much injured. Three, and ſometimes four crops of oats, or barley, ſucceed each other; and with the laſt of theſe crops graſs ſeeds are ſown, which are cut for hay in the following year. Thus four, and ſometimes five, white crops follow one another; for a crop of rye graſs is as ſevere as a crop of oats, and therefore may be called a white crop.

When the land is laid down with graſs ſeeds, it commonly lies ſix years. Fallowing, in this part of the country, is little practiſed; and green crops are but ſmall, and few in number; the fields, therefore, become very dirty. A partial fallow in the ſpring, and early in May, is of great uſe in cleaning the fields. It is often followed by a rich crop of light grain; and is particularly ſerviceable in preparing land for graſs. This is almoſt the only fallow uſed here.

Carts are uſed in carrying merchants goods, manures, grain, &c. &c. The ſmall plough is uſed, ſometimes with, and ſometimes without a chain; but for coarſe ſtrong land, a large plough is thought neceſſary.

Rent.—The average rent of land does not exceed 10 s. per acre: Rent of houſes from L. 1 to L. 15. Leaſes are commonly

monly granted for 19 years. Lord Galloway has two upon his estate here of 21 years, and the life of the farmers. The size of farms is from 300 to 30 acres.

Church and Stipend.—The church was completely repaired about 30 years ago. The manse was rebuilt in 1778. The stipend is L. 75 *per annum* The glebe, including grass and arable land, garden, and site of the manse and office-houses, does not amount to 10 acres. Of these there are 4 acres of the worst land in the neighbourhood. They were never thought worth ploughing till the present incumbent received them. There are 7 heritors. The Earl of Galloway is the only resident one. Dr Davidson, and Elliot William Davidson, his only son, are the present ministers. The former was admitted November 1775; the latter was ordained, September 3. 1789, assistant and successor. The King is patron.

Poor.—There are 13 poor on the list. About L. 27 Sterling *per annum* is distributed among them, chiefly raised by collections in the church. The legal manner of treating paupers was adopted here anno 1776; that is, they were obliged to use badges, and to confine themselves within the bounds of the parish. This distinction was very disagreeable to them; and it was found that some of them had hoarded up money. The present incumbent has never had an improper application from a native for admission to the public charity.

Price of Labour, Fuel, &c.—Common day labourers are paid, one quarter of the year, 10 d. per day; for the other three quarters 1 s.; carpenters 1 s. 4 d.; masons 1 s. 6 d.; taylors 6 d. or 8 d.

A

A farm ſervant, when married, has a houſe and garden, a cow's graſs and fodder, ground to raiſe flax and potatoes for his family, his peats led home, and oats out of the barn, to the value of L 8 Sterling. Labourers who threſh the grain receive the 25th part for their labour. They are employed in other work when the threſhing is over, for which they receive an houſe and garden, graſs and fodder for a cow, ground for potatoes, and flax and oats out of the barn, to the value of L. 2 Sterling.

Both theſe deſcriptions of labourers maintain their families comfortably, educate their children in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and ſometimes put them apprentices to mechanics.

Domeſtic ſervants are hired at and under the following rates, very ſeldom above them: Men at L. 7 Sterling; women L. 3.

Peat is the fuel commonly uſed; they are ſold at 3 d. the horſe load at the moſſes; and, when carried home to the conſumer, they are generally double that ſum. This kind of fuel is commonly procured in the pariſh of Kirkinner. Coals are brought from Cumberland at 19 s. the ton. The ſcarcity of fuel is the greateſt diſadvantage under which this neighbourhood labours, and yet it is within four hours ſailing from the Engliſh coal mines. The tax upon that neceſſary article, when water borne, is the cauſe of its high price; and here that tax is a real grievance. Its bad effects, and unfriendly influence on manufactures, are evident. A ſmall duty, raiſed at the pit, would affect every conſumer equally, and be more productive. Our legiſlators will ſurely embrace ſome fit opportunity of reviſing the coal and ſalt laws: And, it is humbly hoped that the honourable member to whom this

this imperfect account of their unfriendly operation is addreſſed, will conſider ſuch a reviſal as connected with the intereſts of commerce, government, and humanity.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations, Antiquities, &c.—There are two villages in this pariſh, Garlieſtown, founded by the preſent Earl of Galloway when Lord Garlies. It is in the form of a creſcent. It contains about 450 inhabitants. The other village is Sorbie, alſo begun through the encouragement of the preſent Earl, in which there are about 80 inhabitants.

A tumulus, was opened in part by ſome road makers, and human bones were found in it. Near it, and cloſe by Hunters, or Rigg Bay, were alſo found human bones, incloſed by three ſtones; and upon one of the ſtones there ſeemed to be an inſcription. There are the remains of two caſtles, Crugleton and Eagerneſs. An unornamented arch, and ſome other parts of the ruins of Crugleton, ſhew it to have been a place of great ſize and ſtrength. The foſſe remains very plain. This caſtle is ſaid to have been the dwelling of the very ancient and wealthy family of the Vauſes, now Vanſes, of Barnbarrow. Crugleton is now the property of Sir Stair Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart. Eagerneſs is altogether deſtroyed. The terminations of the names of theſe caſtles ſhew them to be of Saxon original. *Neſs*, in that language, ſignifies an headland, or promontory; *ton* is derived from a word in the ſame language which ſignifies an hedge or wall; and that word, again, ſeems to be from one ſignifying a hill. Eagerneſs is a headland: Crugleton is upon a hill; and ſeems to ſignify a town upon a hill, ſurrounded by a wall. There is a rope walk at Garlieſtown, well conducted; and ten coaſting veſſels belong to that port.

An

An high and independent ſpirit plainly marks the people of this pariſh. To receive charity from the pariſh funds is eſteemed diſgraceful, and therefore frugality prevails Their induſtry is perſevering, and ſecures their contentment and virtue. There has not been one criminal proſecution carried on againſt any of them within the memory of any perſon in the pariſh.

Two large veſſels were ſtranded on this coaſt a few years ago; every poſſible civility was ſhewn to the people; and their veſſels were got off again without being damaged.

The ſtatute labour is commuted; and, by act of parliament, the roads are made, and kept in repair, by a pound rate. In the year 1782, a plentiful harveſt was reaped in perfection. There were no complaints among the poor; nor was there any meal ſold under the market price. The landholders and farmers had a friendly interview, and reſolved to retain in the country as much grain as was ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants.

The manners, dreſs, and ſtyle of living of the people, are all much changed within the laſt 50 years. Before that period, they knew little of the happy effects of induſtry, and, therefore, lived upon meal, milk, and vegetables. Their dreſs and houſes were very mean. They knew not the value of the inexhauſtible ſtores of natural manures, marle, and ſea ſhells, which were at hand, truſting to the folding of their herds for manuring their lands. Now every thing bears a new aſpect, and the people ſhare the luxuries of their ſtation with their more ſouthern neighbours, which may be accounted for as follows:

Improve-

Improvements in agriculture introduced such wealth as is most permanent in its nature, because the value of the land is thereby increased. A surplus of grain led the inhabitants to distant markets, and brought strangers into the country. They learned the manners of their neighbours, and became like them; so that now, other accomplishments are added to that bold, active, and warlike spirit, by which the Gallovidians were formerly distinguished, and which procured for them the privilege of appearing in the van of the Scottish armies. Cæsar's description of the Belgae applies to them in ancient times. "Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae; propterea quod a cultu atque humanitate provinciae longissime absunt, minimeque ad eos mercatores saepe commeant, atque ea, quae ad effeminandos animos pertinent, important;" *Comment.*

The inhabitants trade in their own vessels to London and Port Glasgow, and every port between these, as their interest require. Commerce naturally leads to luxury; and luxury prevailing, enervates that spirit which gave it existence, and, in the end, ruins trade, and activity in every useful line.

Good roads are of high importance in improving a country. Wherever they are made, all obstacles are surmounted, and the improvement of every field, capable of it, follows as a certain consequence. The military road from Dumfries to Portpatrick has produced many good effects in this respect. By means of it, mountains, formerly appearing impervious, are now no longer formidable. The stranger passes with ease, to give and receive information; and articles of trade are transported with facility. The road making from this country

try to Edinburgh, by a nearer way than Dumfries, and that into Airſhire through the mountains, muſt be followed by the beſt conſequences.

Beſides the great roads, croſs roads are made, or making, every where through the country.

There are three ſchools in the pariſh; and all the young people are educated according to their ſtations. There is one inn in Garlieſtown, equal to any in this part of Scotland, and five ale, or rather whiſky-houſes. In the village of Sorbie there is one houſe in which foreign ſpirits are ſold, and another in which there is nothing but whiſky. There is very little ale ſold or brewed in this pariſh of late years. The effects of public houſes are moſt injurious to the morals and induſtry of the people, eſpecially when little elſe than whiſky is ſold in them. A few pence procures as much of this baſe ſpirit as is ſufficient to make any man mad. The landlords of ſuperfluous petty public houſes, generally waſte their time, and ruin their conſtitutions, by acting like decoys on their ſilly half reſolved neighbours. In this ſhameleſs buſineſs they are flattered with the notion of promoting trade. This evil does not prevail ſo much here as in ſome other leſs induſtrious neighbourhoods.

New houſes built in Garlieſtown within the laſt ten years, 34

Ditto in Sorbie - - - - - 9

In other parts of the pariſh - - - 16

59

Beſides the above, ſeveral old farm houſes have been taken down, and good new ones erected on their ſites. There have been about 12 old houſes taken down; and there is not one finiſhed houſe uninhabited. Wherever cottagers are employed in agriculture, population increaſes. Their children are healthy, happy, and numerous.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF KILTEARN.

By the Rev. Mr HARRY ROBERTSON.

Origin of the Name.

KILTEARN derives its name from two Gaelic words, viz. viz. *Keil Tighearn*, ſignifying the burying place of the laird or great man; but there is no record or tradition from which we can learn what great man was firſt buried here. The Munro's of Fowlis, the chief family in the pariſh, were buried, for ſeveral centuries, at Chanonry, and only began to bury at Kiltearn anno 1588.

It is well known that many other places in Scotland owe their names to a ſimilar cauſe, viz. their giving burial to ſome ſaint or eminent perſon; and the names of theſe places begin with *Kil*, being a contraction of Keil, as Kilmuir, i. e. Mary's burial place; Killin, Kilbride, Kilſyth, Kildonan, &c.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—This pariſh is ſituated about the middle of the county of Roſs, in the diſtrict called Ferindonald, of which we ſhall ſpeak afterwards. It belongs to the Preſbytery of Dingwall, and ſynod of Roſs; and ſtretches along the north ſide of the bay that runs up from Cromarty to Dingwall, being about ſix miles long from Novar-

Inn

Inn at the eaſt, to a rivulet called Aultnalait, near Tulloch, at the weſt. The breadth is various. That part of the pariſh which is well cultivated is about two miles broad, from the ſea-ſhore on the ſouth, to the foot of the hilly ground on the north. But there are ſeveral grazings and Highland poſſeſſions at the diſtance of five, ten, and even fifteen miles, from the ſea. It is bounded by the pariſh of Alnes on the eaſt, by Contin and Lochbroom on the north, by Dingwall and Fodderty on the weſt, and by Cromarty Bay on the ſouth. The Highland diſtrict of this pariſh is, for the moſt part, wild and uncultivated, conſiſting of high mountains, ſeparated from each other by rapid rivulets, and extenſive tracts of moors and moſſy ground. In this diſtrict, there is a conſiderable ſtrath *, called the Clare, pleaſantly ſituated in an inclined plain, upon the banks of the river Skiack, containing about 200 acres arable land and meadow ground. And, on the oppoſite ſide of the river, there is alſo a plain of about 30 acres, called Bognahavin. Though the houſes in this remote diſtrict are in general very mean, yet there is one on each ſide of the river built in a ſtyle ſuperior to the generality of farm-houſes in the pariſh, being the goat-whey quarters of the miniſter of Kiltearn, and of Mr Munro ſheriff-ſubſtitute of Lewis. In either of theſe houſes, the weary traveller, or the fatigued ſportſman, can find comfortable accommodations. This circumſtance is only taken notice of, becauſe it is a perfect contraſt to the miſerable huts, called Shealings, which the hardy Highlanders inhabit while they tend their flocks and herds, and live on the produce of the dairy.

If we turn our eyes to the low diſtrict of the pariſh, which inclines gently from the foot of the hills towards the ſea, a very

* i. e. valley, or level land between hills.

very rich and beautiful proſpect opens to our view; viz. well cultivated fields, incloſed either with ſtone-walls, or with thorn hedges and belts of planting. In ſhort, every traveller is ſtruck with the natural beauty of the country, which of late years has been ſo much improved by art, as muſt give a favourable idea of the good taſte and opulence of the proprietors. The gentlemen's houſes are large and commodious, and their gardens well ſtored with fruit-trees. About eighty years ago, there were few foreſt trees to be ſeen here, except ſome natural alders and willows on the banks of rivers, and a few aſhes, elms, and limes, ſurrounding gentlemen's gardens; but now there are extenſive plantations of pines or firs, ſeveral miles in circumference, beſides many thouſands of oaks, and other hard wood of every kind that is to be met with in North Britain. The ſeveral proprietors ſeem to vie with each other in raiſing the fineſt plantations of timber. Such improvements are deſirable on a double account: They adorn the face of the country, while they promote the intereſt of individuals.

There are ſeveral hills in this pariſh, which, being viewed from the plains below, add much to the grandeur and variety of the proſpect. Several of theſe hills are covered with fir plantations, which cannot fail to pleaſe the eye, as, the hill above Foulis, the hill of Swordle, and ſome others. Knockmartin, a ſmall hill, compared to the reſt, is ſituated on the eaſt ſide of the hill of Swordle, and is ſeen from the ſea ſide. Its chief beauty conſiſts in its ſhape, it tapers gradually from the baſe to the higheſt point, forming a cone. This laſt mentioned, as well as the higher hills beyond it, are covered with heath. But the moſt diſtinguiſhed hill in the pariſh is Ben-uaiſh, which towers above all the reſt; and muſt be extremely high, as it is ſeen in Moray and Banff-

ſhire.

ſhire. Ben-uaiſh is always covered with ſnow, even in the hotteſt day in ſummer. And, in alluſion to this, there is a remarkable clauſe inſerted in one of the charters of the family of Fowlis, which is, that the foreſt of Uaiſh is held of the King on condition of paying a ſnow-ball to his Majeſty on any day of the year, if required. And we are aſſured that a quantity of ſnow was actually ſent to the Duke of Cumberland, when at Inverneſs, in 1746, to cool his wine. There is a great deal of heath and coarſe graſs, which is excellent paſture for cattle, all around this hill; and the foreſt is well ſtocked with deer, and a variety of moor game.

Air, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—The air is generally clear and pure; and it has been obſerved, in this, as well as the neighbouring pariſhes, that the weather has been more changeable for twenty years paſt than in former times. That rain has fallen of late years in a greater proportion than it did formerly, is a well known fact, which has materially injured the crops, and occaſioned late harveſts over all the north of Scotland. And, that the air is more cold and moiſt upon the higher, than upon the lower ground, is found to hold true, in this diſtrict, as well as in other corners of the kingdom. But, notwithſtanding the variableneſs of the weather, the climate of Kiltearn is by no means unhealthful; nor can the inhabitants impute the diſeaſes they ſometimes labour under to any noxious quality in the air, but rather to accidental cauſes. We are credibly informed, that the ſcarcity of bread in 1782 has impaired the conſtitutions of ſeveral people in the lower ranks of life, and entailed obſtinate diſeaſes on them. When an infectious fever attacks any family in the pariſh, it is generally communicated to ſome of their neighbours, and makes ſeveral breaches before it ceaſes; but it

It is a providential circumſtance, that the people are ſeldom viſited with ſuch a calamity. The epidemical diſeaſe moſt dreaded is the natural ſmall-pox, which uſually ſweeps away a number of children once in ſeven years, and ſometimes oftener. In the year 1777, above 30, and in 1778 no fewer than 47 children died of this diſeaſe. There is not the leaſt doubt that this great mortality was owing in part to the improper treatment of the patients, and the neglect of inoculation, to which the people are ſtill averſe, in ſpite of the earneſt perſuaſion and example of their ſuperiors, confirmed by a ſucceſsful practice in almoſt every inſtance where it has been attempted. Rheumatic complaints have alſo been more frequent than formerly within theſe 30 years, owing probably to the ſubſtitution of linen for flannel ſhirts among the lower ranks; and a return to the uſe of flannel and woolen is found to be the moſt efficacious remedy for this complaint.

Before we conclude this article, it may be proper to obſerve, that the following inſtances of longevity, which ſeem to be well atteſted, afford a very favourable teſtimony of the healthfulneſs of the air and climate of this pariſh. About the year 1706, Katharine M'Kenzie died at Fowlis in the 117th year of her age. In 1782, Mr John Brown, late factor of Foulis, died in his 107th year. In 1775, Kenneth Munro, late of Inveran, died in this pariſh, in his 100th year; and Mrs Munro, his wife, died 4 years after him, in her 88th year. The only inſtance which we ſhall add is a gentleman, a heritor of the pariſh, who had been a member of the laſt Scotch, and of the firſt Britiſh parliament; he died about 30 years ago, in his 94th year. And, within theſe few years, a ſiſter and daughter of the ſame gentleman died here, who were very little ſhort of the ſame age.

Soil

Soil and Produce.—The ſoil here is various, as might be expected in ſo large a diſtrict of land. In the highland diſtrict, the ſoil is either moſſy, or a cold clay, mixed with ſand or gravel, very unfriendly to vegetation. On the banks of the rivers the meadows are covered with a tough, ſtrong turf, producing a coarſe ſort of graſs, fitter for paſturing young cattle than for fattening them, or producing milk. And it would probably be for the intereſt, both of landlord and tenant, that a plough were never uſed in this diſtrict; for, tho' corn may grow, yet, through the cold and moiſture of the climate, it ſeldom ripens ſo as to make good bread. In the low diſtrict of the pariſh, again, the difference of ſoil is very obſervable. Towards the eaſt, it is light and gravelly. In the middle, for about two miles ſquare, there is a rich loam, fit to produce any vegetable, with proper culture. As we proceed further on, the ſoil is black and ſpongy; but, by means of drains, it has of late years been greatly improved. The weſtern diviſion of the pariſh conſiſts chiefly of a ſtrong clay ſoil, ſome of it of a reddiſh hue, which, when well wrought, produces excellent crops. The ſeaſons for ſowing and reaping, in this pariſh, are as different as the degrees of activity, and the unaccountable prejudices of various farmers. Some lay it down as a maxim, never to begin ſowing till a certain day of the month, when their fathers and grandfathers were accuſtomed to ſow. Others, again, embrace the firſt opportunity, when the ſoil is ſufficiently dry to receive the ſeed; and the effect is ſuch as might naturally be expected. The ſpirited active farmer, who ſows early, reaps an early harveſt, and the beſt corn; while the others ſuffer all the inconveniences of a late harveſt. But, we muſt here remark, what is very obſervable, that the farmers on the oppoſite ſide of the bay, in what is called the Black Iſle, never fail to reap their corn a fortnight or twenty days earlier than the inhabitants

inhabitants of this pariſh; and yet they are expoſed to the north, while Kiltearn has a ſouth aſpect. The difference muſt certainly be owing to the quality of the ſoil. That on the oppoſite ſhore is a mould mixed with ſand and gravel, chiefly founded on quarry. As to the productions of this pariſh, were we to mention them all, we would enumerate the ſeveral animals and vegetables that are moſt commonly to be met with in North Britain, with the addition of thoſe productions peculiar to highland countries. The hills abound with red deer, and all kinds of moor game; and various birds and beaſts of prey, as eagles, hawks, foxes, &c. In the extenſive heaths of this diſtrict, a great variety of berries is produced, moſt of which are very grateful to the taſte. During the winter ſtorms, there are ſhoals of ſea-fowls on the coaſt here, ſuch as wild ducks, and a ſpecies of geeſe called *rood geeſe*, which are eſteemed good eating. Some ſhell-fiſh are likewiſe found upon the coaſt, ſuch as muſcles, cockles, and wilks. The ſea-coaſt being ſmooth and ſandy for the moſt part, there is little ſea-weed, and none at all fit for burning kelp. Bee-hives were formerly very plentiful in this pariſh, but now it is probable that there are not above 20 in the whole diſtrict. The pariſh uſed to be greatly infeſted with rats; but they are now almoſt extirpated. Whether this is owing to the induſtry of rat-killers, who have been employed to deſtroy them, or whether they have emigrated to ſome other diſtrict, is not known. As the prejudice againſt eating ſwine's fleſh is in a great meaſure overcome, a conſiderable number of pigs is reared here. Not only every farmer, but every houſe-keeper, rears annually one or two pigs, and ſome half a dozen; the greateſt number of which are ſold at the neighbouring markets; and, when tolerably well fed, fetch from 20 to 30 ſhillings a piece. The breed of black cattle here is various. In the Highlands, they were ſmall ſized and hardy,

but not quite so small as the common breed of cattle in counties farther to the north. But the gentlemen and principal farmers have been at great pains to improve their breed of cattle by purchasing some from Fife and Moray, which are considerably larger than the common breed of the country. Some of the last mentioned, when full fed, sell for L. 10 or L. 12. The horses of the parish are also of two kinds; some of a large Galloway size, which the gentlemen use in ploughing and carting, value from L. 10 to L. 20 each; and a few worth L. 25. But the greatest number of horses are what are commonly called *Highland Garrons*, value from L. 3 to L. 5 each. There are few goats in the parish; and these are the property of two tenants, who occupy very remote possessions. The number of sheep at present is very inconsiderable, and, for the most part, of a very inferior quality, being of a small size, and producing very little wool. At present, there are only two or three farmers in the parish who manage their sheep properly; and one of their sheep is worth two of any other farmer's. The rearing of sheep has been rather discouraged for some time past, being found so destructive to young plantations of timber; but it is not doubted that, in a few years, the rearing of this useful animal will become a principal object both with the landlords and tenants.

We shall conclude this article, by giving a list of the number of horses, black cattle, and sheep, in the parish, which, according to the best information, cannot be far distant from the truth.

Horses of the larger size - - -	63
——of the smaller size - - -	305
Black cattle, including oxen - - -	1000
Sheep - - - - - -	600

Inhabi-

Inhabitants; their Origin, and Progreſs in Civilization.—It is well known, that in many parts of Scotland, particularly in the north, every diſtrict is inhabited chiefly by ſome one particular tribe or clan. So it is in this country. The name of Roſs prevails in the eaſt, Mackenzie in the weſt, and Munro in the middle diſtrict; *i. e.* in the two contiguous pariſhes of Kiltearn and Alnes, which diſtrict of country is commonly called *Ferindonald*; which name appears to be of very antient date. Buchanan relates, that, about the beginning of the 11th century, King Malcolm II. of Scotland fued out the lands in the country to the great families in it, on account of their eminent ſervices in aſſiſting him to extirpate the Danes out of his kingdom. And, according to tradition, it was on that occaſion that the country between the borough of Dingwall and the water of Alnes, in the ſhire of Roſs, was given to Donald Munro, the progenitor of the family of Fowlis, from which all the Munros in this country are deſcended: And part of theſe lands were afterwards by the King erected into a barony, called the *Barony of Fowlis*. From this Donald Munro is lineally deſcended the preſent Sir Hugh Munro, Bart. who is the 29th baron of Fowlis, and proprietor of about two-thirds of the lands in the pariſh of Kiltearn. Under this head, we may obſerve, that, in antient times, thoſe tribes or clans who inhabited different diſtricts of the country, looked upon themſelves as a diſtinct people or nation, united together under their reſpective chiefs or leaders, who exerciſed a ſovereign, and at the ſame time a parental, authority over them. They looked up to the chief as to their common father; he looked upon them as his children, whom he protected as well as governed. That there were conſtant feuds and conflicts maintained between the neighbouring clans or tribes, is a fact well known. Many circumſtances concurred to occaſion theſe conflicts, and to ſupport this warlike

ſpirit.

ſpirit. In thoſe rude and remote ages, when trade and commerce were little attended to, men of an enterpriſing ſpirit had no other field for diſtinguiſhing themſelves but by their ſuperior ſkill in the uſe of arms. This induced them to watch for every opportunity of diſplaying their martial atchievements; and hence it often happened, that the ſlighteſt affronts were reſented as the greateſt injuries, eſpecially from one of a different tribe or clan. And it was not uncommon, for the ſake of a meer punctilio, or point of honour, to ſee two neighbouring clans marching out to battle, and maintaining the bloody conflict till victory was declared on one ſide. The conflict being over, it was uſual that the chief or leader beſtowed ſome mark of favour upon thoſe of his followers who had diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their valour. When both ſides were wearied out with the fatigues of war, there was uſually a bond of amity or friendſhip entered into by their leaders, in which they bound themſelves, and their followers, to maintain peace; which deeds were executed with all the ſolemnity of treaties entered into between two ſovereign powers. But, even after the chiefs of the clans became more enlightened and humaniſed than to encourage the old feuds, they found it no eaſy matter to reſtrain the lower ranks among their followers from aſſaſſinating their neighbours, and committing depredations on their property. A ſtriking proof of which we learn from a tranſaction that happened in this part of the country little more than a century ago, when there was a bond of friendſhip entered into between the families of Seaforth and Fowlis. An old record, which gives a character of Sir John Munro of Fowlis, ſpeaks thus: 'He lived in good correſpondence with his neigh-' bours; for there was a mutual condeſcendence paſt be-' twixt Kenneth Earl of Seaforth and Sir John Munro, there-' in deſigned John Munro younger of Fowlis, of which the

' tenor

tenor follows:—"At Edinburgh the twentie third day of "January, javie and fextie one years, It is condeſcended and "agreed as follows, that is to ſay, We Kenneth Earl of Sea- "forth, and John Munro younger of Fowlis, taking to our "conſideration how prejudicial it hath been to both our fa- "milies that there hath not been of a long time, ſo good a "correſpondence betwixt us as was befitting men of that "conjunction and neighbourhood, and of what advantage it "will be to us, to live in good correſpondence and confe- "deracie one with another, and to maintain and concur for "the weal of either, For the which cauſes, We the ſaid noble "Lord, and John Munro younger of Fowlis, taking burthen "on us for our friends, kinſmen, and all others whom we "may ſtop or let, do by thir preſents bind and oblige us and "our heirs faithfully upon our honours to maintain and "concur with each other, for the good of both and our "foreſaids and to prevent as much as in us lyes, what may "be to the prejudice of either of us or of any in whom ei- "ther of us may be concerned in all time coming, as wit- "neſs thir preſents ſubſcribed by us the place, day, month "and year above written and mentioned, before theſe wit- "neſſes, Thomas M'Kenzie of Pluſcardin, Colin M'Kenzie "of Redcaſtle, Lieutenant Colonel Alexr Munro, and Major "Alexr Munro Commiſſar of Stirling. Sic ſubſcribitur, *Sea-* "*forth*, John Munro." But notwithſtanding this bond of friend- ſhip between the chiefs of both clans, it cannot be denied that a good deal of the old ſpirit diſcovered itſelf on various occaſions among their followers and adherents, till it was moſt happily ſuppreſſed at the memorable æra 1745—6. It is our good fortune to live in an age when we ſee thoſe whoſe predeceſſors, in rude and barbarous times, ſeldom met but with hoſtile intentions, now living in habits of ſincere friend- ſhip

ſhip and ſocial intercourſe, much to their mutual honour and advantage.

Population.—In order to aſcertain with accuracy the population of this pariſh, a ſurvey was made between the beginning of January and the middle of March 1791, from which we are enabled to give the following account of that important article:

Number of houſes, or ſmokes	385
——— ſouls	1616
——— males	694
——— females	922
Under 10 years of age	448
From 10 to 20	308
—— 20 to 30	219
—— 30 to 40	204
—— 40 to 50	173
—— 50 to 60	145
—— 60 to 70	81
—— 70 to 80	29
—— 80 to 90	9
Married perſons of both ſexes	492
Unmarried women from 18 to 50	153
——— men paſt 20	72
——— women paſt 50	84
Widowers	15
Widows	96

From the foregoing liſt it appears, 1ſt, that many of the inhabitants of the pariſh live to what may be reckoned old age; 2dly, that the number of females far exceeds that of the males; and, 3dly, that the number of widowers is but ſmall,

ſmall, while the number of widows is ſo great, as muſt excite compaſſion in every feeling breaſt. If the number of houſes or ſmokes ſhall appear conſiderable, let it be obſerved, that moſt of them are miſerable huts, and that ſome of them are only inhabited by a poor ſolitary widow, or by a ſingle man, who works for days wages wherever he can find employment. At different periods of time the population of this pariſh has varied much, which can be eaſily accounted for. We learn from good information, that, about the beginning of this century, there were nearly as many inhabitants in this pariſh as there are at preſent. This fact ſeems to be farther eſtabliſhed by ſome old ſeſſion regiſters of baptiſms and marriages between the year 1700 and 1728, extracts of which are ſubjoined. It is to be regretted that there are ſeveral chaſms in thoſe records, which prevents our giving the extracts ſo completely as might be wiſhed; but to ſhew clearly that the population here had gradually diminiſhed between the year 1740 and 1770, liſts are given of the baptiſms and marriages celebrated about that period, viz. from 1747 to 1752. The diminution of the number of inhabitants then can be very rationally accounted for. That martial ſpirit which has been a diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of the Munros, led perſons of every rank and deſcription in this pariſh to fly to arms as ſoon as the trumpet ſounded the alarm of war. By this means the flower of the young men of Kiltearn were ſcattered abroad in all the countries that have been the ſeat of war during that period; in Flanders, in Germany, in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and in America; beſides, ſeveral hundreds have gone as recruits to the Scots Brigade in Holland, which eſtabliſhment was at that time one of the chief fields of preferment for young gentlemen of family. It is no wonder, then, that a country which for a long time had been a nurſery for the army, ſhould, in a courſe of years, decreaſe conſiderably

derably in population. But, at the peace 1763, such numbers, both of officers and private soldiers, flocked home to their native country, that the population is sensibly increased since that period. Add to this, that the various buildings and improvements which have been carried on in this neighbourhood within 20 years, has induced many labourers and artificers to settle among us, and considerably increased the number of inhabitants.

The following lists, extracted from the session records, will fully illustrate what has been advanced above, by giving a view of the population at three several periods, viz. at the beginning of this century, about the middle of it, and at the present time.

List during the First Period.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1702, from January 6. to September 17.	33	no record.
1724, during the whole year	42	8
1725	36	8
1726	18	4
1727	21	19

List during the Second Period.

1747	23	8
1748	25	7
1749	27	7
1750	28	12
1751	26	9
1752	25	10
	154	53
Yearly average, nearly	26	9

List

List during the Third Period.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	31	9	
1785	34	11	
1786	34	7	
1787	34	7	
1788	40	8	
1789	36	8	
1790	45	15	
	254	65	190
Yearly average, nearly	36	9	27

Though no public register of the burials has been kept here, yet, from memorandums kept by private persons, and the best information we could obtain on the subject, there is every reason to believe that the above is a correct statement for the last seven years.

Heritors, Rent, and Farms.—There are six heritors or proprietors of land in this parish; and the two most considerable of them reside constantly in it; one resides occasionally; and the remaining three live upon other parts of their property. About 60 years ago, there were more than twice the present number of heritors; but these were chiefly cadets of the family of Fowlis, who had at different periods derived their possessions from that family; and, when those small heritors were obliged to sell off their lands, they have reverted, by purchase, to the original proprietors. The valued rent of the parish is L.3149:9:6 Scots; the real rent about L. 1500 Sterling. Formerly, the greatest part of the rent was paid in victual; but a good deal of the victual is now converted.

It is not eaſy to ſay what the rate of converſion is, being different on the properties of the ſeveral heritors. In ſtating the rent of the pariſh, we have ſet no value on the extenſive plantations of growing timber, which muſt bring a conſiderable revenue to the proprietors in a few years, and may probably be eſtimated at L. 30,000. As the greateſt part of the lands in the pariſh have been meaſured by ſurveyors, we can give a pretty exact account of the number of acres of arable ground, which are reckoned to be about 2250, excluſive of woodlands and paſture ground that has never been cultivated. The lands have let at various prices; ſome acres at 20 s. ſome at 17 s. 15 s. 12 s. 10 s. and none below 8 s; but, as the arable and paſture grounds, both in the high and low diſtricts of the pariſh, are uſually let to tenants in the lump, without diſtinguiſhing the value of each acre, the above eſtimate is but conjectural, though founded on the beſt information that can be had. One third part of the whole arable land in the pariſh is now in the poſſeſſion of the proprietors, and has been occupied by them for ſeveral years paſt. How far this may be favourable to their intereſts, they will be beſt able to judge when they ſum up their accounts of profit and loſs; but it is the prevailing opinion in this country, that gentlemen of fortune and landed property rather loſe than gain by extenſive farms. No doubt, much depends on their being fortunate in getting ſkilful, active, and faithful overſeers. All the gentlemen's farms in this pariſh are at preſent managed, either by natives of the ſouth of Scotland, or by perſons bred to farming there. It may therefore be expected that the ſame implements of huſbandry, and the ſame rotation of crops, will be found on thoſe farms which are under their management, as we ſee in Fife or Eaſt Lothian, except when a different mode of farming is purſued, to gratify the views of the proprietor. The next in

rank

rank to the heritors are the better ſort of farmers, who may be thus claſſed:

Tenants paying about	L. 80 rent . . .	2
—— —— ——	40	3
—— —— ——	30	4
—— —— ——	20	4
—— from L. 20 to	10	9
—— from L. 10 to	3	56
		78

The principal farmers mentioned above keep good cattle and farming utenſils; and of late years they ſow ſome clover and rye-graſs ſeeds, as well as their landlords. They are alſo ambitious to have their farms properly incloſed, on reaſonable terms; but the other claſſes of tenants conſider incloſures as a grievance, and would rather partake of every thing in common. Their cattle are alſo of an inferior ſize; and they never ſow graſs ſeeds; but, inſtead of this, when their land is exhauſted by a repeated ſucceſſion of crops, they allow it to lie *lea* or untilled for two or three years; during which time they paſture it till it gets a turf again; and then till and ſow it with oats, and leave another piece of ground lea in its turn. It is no wonder that theſe farmers ſhould have poor returns from their lands; for, nothing but ſcanty crops can be expected from ſuch wretched management. Another claſs of people ſtill remains to be mentioned, who, though they cannot be ſtrictly called farmers, are ſo in part, as they occupy one, two, or three acres of ground. Theſe are commonly called cottars, i. e. cottagers, or mailers, and often hold of the principal farmer. They do not depend on farming for their entire ſupport, being, in general,

neral, artificers, mechanics, or day-labourers; and theſe laſt do more juſtice to their lands, and rear better crops on their ſmall lots than the poor tenants do on larger poſſeſſions. We ſhall not attempt to give the exact number of all the cottars and mailers in the pariſh; but of ſuch of them as are artificers and mechanics, together with their apprentices, the following is a complete liſt.

Blackſmiths	3	Taylors	8
Maſons and ſlaters	14	Shoemakers	9
Joiners and coopers	8	Millers	3
Cart-wrights	4	Shopkeepers	4
Weavers	6	Apprentices	36
Dyer	1	Bleacher	1

We may obſerve, that, as the above number of mechanics cannot be ſuppoſed to find conſtant employment in the pariſh, they work occaſionally in the neighbourhood, and employ their leiſure hours in cultivating their ſmall lots of land, where potatoes are always the ſtaple crop. Among ſuch a number of farmers as we have deſcribed, there muſt be various methods of culture. On the farms of the better ſort, it is common to ſee two ſtrong horſes yoked in the plough, under the management of a ſingle ploughman, or ſix oxen yoked in ſucceſſive pairs, which require a driver. Others, again, join two horſes and two oxen, believing that the ſprightlineſs of the horſes will carry forward the oxen with more alacrity. But the poorer tenants yoke in one plough, horſes, oxen, and cows, promiſcuouſly, which often exhibit a miſerable ſpectacle, and clearly ſhews that they are more ſolicitous to increaſe the number, than improve the quality of their cattle. Within a dozen years, an improve-

ment

ment has been introduced, which deſerves to be peculiarly attended to, as it has anſwered all the good purpoſes that were expected from it, viz. The oxen are now harneſſed by many farmers in the ſame manner as horſes, which they work in the plough; the conſequence is, that the animal draws with more power, and alſo with more ſeeming eaſe to itſelf, than when it was yoked by the neck. And, to prevent any inconveniency ariſing from the horns of the ox in putting on the collar, there is a ſtrap and buckle uſed, by which the collar opens and ſhuts. The prevailing opinion ſeems to be in favour of labouring with oxen rather than horſes, which are liable to ſo many accidents, and a certain loſs in the end; but it has fared with this, as with many other juſt maxims, it is more readily aſſented to in ſpeculation than reduced to practice. There are about 10 oxen wains now in this pariſh, beſides 30 coops or box carts, drawn by two horſes, employed by the proprietors and principal farmers. About twenty years ago, there were ſcarcely half that number. There are near 100 ploughs of all ſorts, but many of them very light and trifling. Beſides the carts now mentioned, there are about 300 ſmall rung carts, as they are called, which are employed in leading home the fuel from the moſs, and the corn to the barn-yard. Theſe carts have, inſtead of wheels, ſmall ſolid circles of wood, between 20 and 24 inches diameter, called tumbling wheels. It is alſo very common to place a coarſe, ſtrong baſket, formed like a ſugar loaf, acroſs theſe ſmall carts, in which the manure is carried from the dung-hill to the field. Theſe kinds of carts are called Kellachys; and are not only uſed in this diſtrict, but over all the north country. To form ſome idea of the ſtate of farming in this diſtrict, we ſubjoin the following abſtract of the manner in which the ground is laid down, toge-

ther

ther with the proportions which the ſeveral crops bear to each other.

	Acres.
Sown with oats, about	1000
—— barley	500
—— peaſe	120
—— clover and rye graſs	300
—— potatoes	140
—— turnips	30
—— wheat	30
—— beans	10
—— flax	6
—— rye	20
—— leas	94
	2250

The average returns from the above ſowings are very inconſiderable. The barley yields only about 5, and the oats 4 returns. Hence, even in the beſt years, the pariſh can ſpare very little corn for the market. The reaſon why flax and wheat are ſo little cultivated in the pariſh, is the want of mills to manufacture theſe articles.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—The wages paid to ſervants engaged in domeſtic employments vary according to the circumſtances of their maſters; but the wages of thoſe ſervants who are employed in the labours of the field can be more eaſily aſcertained. Of theſe laſt mentioned, ſome eat in their maſter's houſe, but by far the greateſt number live in cottages of their own, and receive 6 bolls of meal inſtead of board, and L. 3 pounds Sterling of wages annually. This is the average rate for ordinary ploughmen and carters. From this rule, however, there are many exceptions. A plough-

man

than who excels ſometimes get L. 5 or L. 6 wages, and 8 or 10 bolls of meal. Beſides the above, every man ſervant has the privilege of planting about half a boll of potatoes for his own uſe, rent free. The uſual wages of female ſervants in farmers houſes is from L. 1 : 4 : 0 to L. 1 : 10 : 0 yearly. The common method of managing the harveſt work is to hire a certain number of ſhearers for the harveſt quarter, proportioned to the ſize of the farm: This is the old cuſtom. The men get about a boll and an half, and the women a boll of meal, inſtead of meat and wages, during the harveſt ſeaſon. But the active and intelligent part of the farmers begin to ſee the inconvenience of the above practice; becauſe, while they are confined to a few hands, they may loſe by one ſtormy day as much as would defray the whole charges of cutting down the crops. Hence, they now hire their ſhearers for the day, and increaſe or diminiſh their number according to the ſtate of their crops. This is evidently the more rational plan of the two. The men receive 7 d. per day, and the women 6 d. The price of mowing hay is uſually from 2 s. 2 d. to 2 s. 6 d. per acre. Day labourers receive for ordinary work 6 d. per day all the year through, and ſomething extraordinary if their labour is harder than uſual. They are more willing, however, to work by the piece; and then they will earn, perhaps, 1 s. and upwards per day. Trenching ground about 18 inches deep, if it be free from roots and ſtones, coſts 4 d. the rood of 6 yards ſquare; but, if the ſoil is rugged, and hard to work, it coſts 8 d. The price of grain, meal, and all ſorts of proviſions, has been gradually advancing for ſeveral years, and is not likely to fall. Perhaps the average price of barley and oat-meal, for 20 years paſt, has been about 14 s. per boll. This obſervation, and what follows reſpecting the price of proviſions, holds true with regard to a conſiderable part of the county of Roſs, as well

well as the parish of Kiltearn. Nothing can give a better idea of the advanced price of provisions, than the following comparative view of the price of some necessary articles of living in 1760 and 1790.

	Prices in 1760.	Prices in 1790.
Boll of barley, or oat-meal	L. 0 10 0	L. 0 16 0
Highland cow . .	1 16 0	3 0 0
Beef and mutton per lb.	0 0 1½	0 0 2½ to 3d.
Fowls each . .	0 0 1½	0 0 4 to 5d.
Stone of butter, of 21 lb.	0 6 0	0 12 to 14 s.
——— cheese . .	0 2 4	0 4 to 5 s.

The above advanced price of provisions must be sensibly felt by persons whose incomes are stationary, and who have no means of improving them.

Poor.—There is little difference as to the method of providing for the poor in the several parishes of this county, but what arises from the largeness or smallness of the funds appropriated for that purpose. It is truly matter of regret, that no proper and effectual scheme has ever been devised among us to provide for the poor. At present they chiefly subsist by begging from door to door, not only in the respective parishes to which they belong, but over all the county; and it would seem hard to prohibit them from begging, as they have no alternative but to starve. The weekly collections made in the churches are very inadequate to the purpose of supporting the poor in any of our parishes. In this parish, the collections never exceed L. 8 or L. 10 Sterling yearly. About L. 6 arises from charitable mortifications, which, added to the above, makes the whole fund for the poor about L. 15. After paying the session-clerk, and some other

other officers of the church, there remains only about L. 10 Sterling, which is diſtributed once a year among the moſt indigent perſons of the pariſh by the kirk-ſeſſion, in preſence of the heritors. But how ſmall a relief can this afford, when there are uſually above 100 perſons upon the poor's liſt here, who have every claim to charity that indigence and infirmity can give them? nor will it appear ſurpriſing that the poor's roll in this place ſhould be ſo large, when it is recollected that there are 96 widows in it.

Rivers, Lakes, and Fiſheries.—Among the ſeveral ſtreams of water which run through this pariſh, only two of them deſerve to be mentioned. Firſt, Skiak, which falls into the ſea, cloſe by the church. The banks on both ſides are covered with bruſhwood and trees of various kinds, moſt of which grow naturally. This river being traced to its ſource, is found to terminate in a collection of ſmall ſtreams that meet together in the valleys, at the foot of the ſeveral mountains. The other river which we ſhall mention is Aultgrande, *i. e.* in Gaelic, the *ugly water*, or *burn*, ſo called on account of ſome rocks through which it runs down, that make a very formidable appearance, which will be more particularly deſcribed under the article *Curioſities*. This river falls into the ſea about half a mile eaſt of the former, and has its banks on each ſide covered with trees and ſhrubs. When the ſnow melts on the mountains, this river frequently pours down its ſtreams with great rapidity, and often proves highly detrimental to the adjacent lands. It takes its riſe in Loch Glaſs, a beautiful freſh water lake about 6 miles from the ſea. This lake never freezes till about the ſpring ſeaſon, and not even then, unleſs the froſt be uncommonly ſevere. It is about 5 miles long, and near 1 mile broad, and navigable all the way. This, together with ſeveral other ſmaller

lakes situated upon the north side of Ben-Uaish, affords abundance of fine trout, though they are not of a large size. There is a small island near the south end of this lake, where it is said one of the lairds of Fowlis had formerly a summer-house. Besides the trout taken in the rivers and lakes, there are a good number of salmon caught on the sea coast, sometimes by nets and cobles, called a *stell fishing*, but chiefly by means of yaires, or small inclosures, built in a curve or semicircular form near the shore. At high water the salmon comes within these yaires, and at low water is easily taken, having no way to escape. This is the simplest and cheapest mode of fishing that can be devised. There are usually four or five yaires kept up in the parish; and each proprietor takes fish enough to supply himself and a few friends. In a good fishing season he can send some to market. Flounders, herring-fry, or sprats, are frequently taken in these yaires.

Fossils, Mines, and Minerals.—In digging for peats in the mosses of this parish, numbers of fir trees are found, which afford a clear proof that those extensive tracts of ground were once covered with trees, which must have added much to the beauty of the country, and have been shelter to the cattle. These trees that are dug out of the mosses are perfectly sound, and last long when applied to the purpose of building. One chief benefit derived from them is, that they burn well, and afford excellent light to the country people, who cannot afford to buy candles. Clay and shell marl are to be found in this parish. The clay marl is met with in a moss called Boginturie, upon the estate of Fowlis, 3 miles distant from the sea shore. There is abundance of it; and it has answered well with those who have tried it. It will probably come into more repute in proportion as the true notion of farming prevails.

prevails. The ſhell marl, though of an excellent quality, does not afford ſo rich a ſupply as the other, as there is only a ſmall vein that appears near the church, and is found in the ſame direction about the weſt end of the pariſh. It is pretty remarkable that this ſhell marl is found at the diſtance of about 200 yards from the ſea, and at leaſt 30 feet perpendicular above its level. There are very flattering appearances of coal in all the weſtern part of the pariſh, from the ſea to the hills. Several years ago, one or two attempts were made to diſcover a proper mine, but it was not purſued with that ardour and perſeverance which the importance of the object deſerved. The perſons formerly employed only bored in 2 or 3 places. They acknowledged that they found coal, but pretended it lay ſo deep, that unleſs the vein was conſiderable, it would not pay the expence of working; but we cannot help ſuſpecting that they knew but little, and preſumed a great deal. Conſidering, however, the public ſpirit and independent fortunes of ſeveral gentlemen concerned, it is to be hoped that they will once more make a fair trial of the coal mines in this diſtrict, by ſinking one or two pits, and employing ſome ſkillful hands for a few months to work in the mines, and aſcertain the value of the coal. The expence would not be very great: The attempt would at leaſt be laudable, and moſt probably would be crowned with ſucceſs. In a rock on the banks of Aultnacaorach, *i. e.* the *ſheep burn*, (a rivulet that falls into Aultgrande), there are indications of lead ore. The only trial ever made of it was about 36 years ago, by one Charles Smith, a common miner, who ſmelted a piece of the ore taken from this rock, which produced good lead. Near the ſtorehouſe of Fowlis there is a chalybeate ſpring, which has been drank with ſalutary effects about 60 years ago. There is another ſpring at Teinleod, above Fowlis Caſtle, called St Colman's Well. Whether it has any medicinal

dicinal virtue we have not heard; but it was a common practice, in the memory of some still alive, for superstitious persons to frequent the well, and, after drinking the water, to tye some rags to the branches of the surrounding trees.

Roads and Bridges.—Very particular attention has been paid of late years to the roads in this district; and the bridges have been widened for the conveniency of carriages. The new bridge over Aultgrande is remarkably neat, and well finished, and does credit to Mr Kyle, the architect, who built it. All the bridges are built and kept in repair at the expence of the county. The roads are kept in repair by the statute labour, which the inhabitants perform personally, and very seldom by commutation. An improvement is now making on the road that leads through this parish, which will add much to the pleasure and comfort of travellers. The chief heritor has, at a considerable expence, carried off the road in a sweep or curve, about a quarter of a mile farther south than it was formerly. By this means, travellers will not only pass through the middle of rich fields and fine plantations of trees, but will also have a full view of that antient and elegant mansion, Fowlis Castle. This improved road was begun in 1790, and will be completed in the course of 1791.

Villages, Schools, & Manufactures.—There is only one small village in the parish, called Drummond, situated in a level field contiguous to the river Skiack. This village is yet in its infancy; but, as the situation of it is centrical, and agreeable, being on the post-road between Dingwall and Novar Inn, there is every reason to believe that it will increase considerably in a few years. At present, there is a public house, two shop-keepers, a dyer of woolen stuffs, who keeps a press and scouring-mill; and a few other mechanics. Two

fairs

fairs or markets are held here annually; the one early in June, and the other the firſt week in December, where black cattle and other country commodities are ſold; and, though the proprietor exacts no toll or cuſtom, he maintains a guard while the market laſts, to keep order, and prevent riots. The fair in December is known by the name of the Gooſe-market. But, as no geeſe are ſold at it, the name Gooſe-market has probably taken its riſe from an entertainment uſually given by the gentlemen of the pariſh to the principal inhabitants on the ſecond day of the market, where a gooſe (being then in ſeaſon,) always makes a part of the feaſt. On this occaſion, there is no exceſs in drinking encouraged; and the company meet merely for the ſake of ſocial intercourſe. Adjoining to the village of Drummond is the pariſh ſchool, which is commonly attended by 60 or 80 children, and often by a much greater number. The ſalary paid by the heritors to the maſter is a chalder of barley; and, as precenter and ſeſſion-clerk, his emoluments will amount to about L. 4, beſides the quarter-fees paid by the ſcholars, which are as low and moderate as any where in Scotland; Engliſh being taught for 1 s. per quarter; writing 1 s. 6 d.; arithmetic 2 s.; and Latin 2 s. 6 d. It is no more than juſtice to ſay that the education of youth is at preſent conducted at the ſchool upon the moſt approved plan, and with correſpondent ſucceſs. To which we may add, that, beſides what is uſually taught at grammar ſchools, ſeveral other branches of uſeful ſcience and literature are taught here, ſuch as the French language, geography, geometry, book-keeping, and the different branches of practical mathematics. This deſerves the more to be remarked, becauſe ſo few country pariſhes are favoured with ſimilar advantages for educating their youth. Within a quarter of a mile of the village of Drummond, to the eaſt, on the farm of Upper Balcony,

Balcony, there is a licenſed diſtillery for aquavitæ or whiſky, which pays L. 30, and conſumes about 180 bolls of barley yearly; but it is much to be regretted that a great quantity of ſpirits, beſide the whole produce of this diſtillery, is conſumed within the pariſh. On the oppoſite ſide of the river, and cloſe to the New Bridge, is Culcairn Bleachfield, the only one in the county. This bleachfield was firſt eſtabliſhed by the late John Munro, Eſq; of Culcairn, father of the preſent proprietor of that name, in 1751. Though it promiſed well for ſeveral years, yet it afterwards declined much, while it paſſed through the hands of different managers. In the year 1779, it fortunately fell into the hands of the preſent manager, William Tait, from Salton Bleachfield in Eaſt Lothian. The proprietor, obſerving that Mr Tait was not deficient, either in ſkill or activity, reſolved to give him every encouragement, granted him a leaſe of the bleachfield, and built a comfortable houſe for him. A clear proof of the rapid progreſs this field has made under the preſent manager is, that, in the year 1779, there were only 440 pieces of cloth bleached here; but, in the year 1790, the number of pieces amounted to 2242. The Honourable Board of Truſtees, being well informed of Mr Tait's induſtry and ſucceſs, were pleaſed, in 1786, to grant L. 50 for erecting a drying houſe. And it is not doubted that, on a proper repreſentation, they will give ſome further aid towards ſetting up proper machinery, and a complete bleaching apparatus, at this very flouriſhing field.

Inns and Ale-houſes.—There are only two licenſed ale-houſes in the pariſh which pay exciſe-duty; one at Drummond, and the other at Weſter Fowlis. Theſe are neceſſary for the accommodation of travellers, and for tranſacting country buſineſs. But there are a number of blind whiſky houſes, ſituated

ſituated in obſcure corners, at a diſtance from the public road. Theſe laſt are much frequented by tipplers, and dram-drinkers, who ſometimes ſit up whole nights at their debauch. Such tippling-houſes have proved a great nuiſance for ſeveral years paſt, and have been very prejudicial to the health, the morals, and the circumſtances, of ſeveral inhabitants of this pariſh. It is not uncommon to ſee two mechanics, or day-labourers, repairing once or twice a-day to one of theſe enſnaring haunts, and drinking a choppin bottle of unmixed whiſky at each time, with as great eaſe as their forefathers would drink a Scots pint of twopenny ale, or ſmall beer. What adds to the grievance is, that the keepers of theſe corrupting haunts are not always very ſcrupulous as to the mode of receiving payment for their drink. When money fails, they will receive meal and victual at a low price, which is often ſtolen from the mills, and farmers barns. When this reſource fails, they receive houſehold furniture, and wearing apparel. An evil that has come to ſuch a height loudly calls for the interpoſition of the civil magiſtrate; and it is a great pity that the gentlemen of the diſtrict who are juſtices of the peace, and are remarkably temperate themſelves, have not made greater exertions to ſuppreſs this growing evil.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—As it is the common lot of mankind to have their condition in this world checquered with a mixture of good and evil, ſo it cannot be denied that the inhabitants of Kiltearn have their own ſhare, both of the advantages and diſadvantages of life. It is a very favourable circumſtance for this pariſh, that it is ſituated on a beautiful bay, and within four leagues of Cromarty; from which place there is a communication by ſea once every fortnight to London and Leith. Beſides, there are three ſeveral harbours in the pariſh, viz. at Balcony, Fowlis, and Ardullie point,

point, where veſſels from 80 to 100 tons burden may load and unload, and anchor with the greateſt ſafety, as there are no dangerous rocks or ſhelves near the ſhore. Excellent free-ſtone quarries, that are eaſily wrought, are to be met in every corner of the pariſh. This circumſtance, added to the abundance of timber, affords great encouragement to carry on buildings, and other improvements. The advantages of education which are to be had at the public ſchools here, is a very encouraging circumſtance to determine ſuch as have riſing families to ſettle among us. The prevailing taſte for buildings and improvements among the gentlemen of the pariſh is a great bleſſing to artificers and day-labourers; which was particularly experienced in the hard years 1782 and 1783; being, under God, the mean of preſerving many families from periſhing for want of bread. But, as the gentlemen's improvements will ſoon be completed, many hands who are now employed will be at a loſs to provide for themſelves and their families, unleſs ſome manufactures are ſpeedily eſtabliſhed; and, conſidering the great number of women in the pariſh, it would be deſirable that ſome manufacture ſhould be introduced to employ the females, and children of both ſexes; for it is a hard caſe, when a labouring man is unable to work, by age or ſickneſs, that his family has no means of earning a ſubſiſtence, however unwilling to work. This leads us to mention another diſadvantage which the poor women labour under here, which is, that they ſeldom have proper aſſiſtance when in child-bed, as there is no regularly bred midwife in the pariſh. This often proves of fatal conſequence to women in that ſituation, which, of all others, require the moſt tender care, as well as ſkill. It is alſo much to be wiſhed that the inhabitants in general were better lodged than they can poſſibly be in their preſent huts. In no country, perhaps, are the gentlemen better lodged, and the

tenants

tenants worſe accommodated, than in this pariſh; for, who could ſuppoſe that, among the 385 houſes in the pariſh, there are not forty, in which a perſon accuſtomed to a decent accommodation, would chooſe to lodge a ſingle night. Perhaps their being ſo frequently obliged to remove their cottages makes them leſs ſolicitous to have them comfortably built. The greateſt number are built of earth, and are uſually razed to the ground once in 5 or 7 years, when they are added to the dunghill. Indeed, they cannot afford to build them of better materials, not even with clay and ſtone; and yet, as a proof of the late increaſe of population, when any of theſe mean huts become vacant, there are perhaps five or ſix candidates for them; and the ſucceſsful one is ſuppoſed to owe the preference to ſuperior intereſt. But, among the chief diſadvantages of this pariſh may be reckoned the extreme poverty of many who become farmers. Too many aſſume this character who have hardly any ſtock to begin with; and the conſequence is, that, after ſtruggling for a few years to keep credit,—they at laſt ſink under the load of poverty, while the landlord has a long arrear of rent due to him. In a word, it cannot be denied that many among us have the name of farmers who ought more properly to be day-labourers. Indeed, ſome of their own hired ſervants have the neceſſaries of life with a greater degree of comfort than their maſters, the farmers. One circumſtance very prejudicial to the farmers is, that they are too much at the mercy of their ſervants. When a ſervant engages with a poor farmer, he bribes him with a promiſe of high wages; and, when money fails, he allows his ſervant to ſow a quantity of corn for his own uſe, and to keep a cow in ſummer, and perhaps two or three in winter, on the farm, which brings certain ruin upon the tenant in the end. We will add, that it is a great loſs to have ſo few juſtices of peace in the

district to take cognizance of this and other grievances. The last particular we shall mention, under the head of disadvantage, is not confined to this parish only, but is equally felt in the parishes around us, viz. the personal service of the tenants. These, however, were formerly more grievous than at present; for it is not long since the farmers, their servants, and horses, must have been ready at a call from the laird when he had any operations to carry on on his farm, or otherwise. They ploughed, harrowed, manured, and reaped, the landlord's farm, while their own were often neglected. Here, however, we must observe, that, in former times, these services, though a burden, were not such a grievance as they would be now. The rents were then low, and money scarce. Hence the services made a considerable part of the revenue which landlords derived from their lands. But now the case is altered; and, wherever tenants are expected to thrive, personal services must be dispensed with, and commuted. That which has been longest kept up, is the providing a certain quantity of peats or fuel for the master yearly, which interferes much with the labours of the husbandman, as his whole time is employed in providing his own and his landlord's fuel, from the time the seed is sown till the beginning of harvest. Thus, he loses all that time in which he ought to provide manure for his land. The personal services of the tenants are, however, always limited, and as exactly known as the rent of the farm. Some proprietors of lands in the parish have begun, of late, to accept of a conversion for all services, and also to grant leases to the industrious part of the farmers. If these conversions were moderate, and if the tenants were encouraged to build decent houses, it would conduce to the comfort of the farmer, and the interest of the landlord.

Language,

Language, and Etymology of Names.—The language commonly ſpoken here is the Gaelic, or Earſe; but, of late years, the Engliſh begins to be more cultivated than formerly, and is underſtood by the generality of the inhabitants. The church ſervice is performed here, as in the greateſt part of the county, in Gaelic in the forenoon, and in Engliſh in the afternoon.

The names of places ſeem, in general, to be of Gaelic original. For example, Balcony, that is, in Earſe, a dwelling-place. This is a beautiful ſeat, ſituated on the banks of the river Skiack, on a fine eminence, which ſlopes gradually towards the ſea. This was formerly one of the ſeats of the antient Earls of Roſs. Hence it is called Balcony vie Dhonail, or MacDonald's habitation. Ketwal, that is, in Earſe, Kead vail, or, the firſt poſſeſſion, acquired by the Earls of Roſs in this pariſh. Tennaird, that is, the houſe on the height. Mountgerald is a modern name given by Mr M'Kenzie, father to the preſent proprietor, to a place formerly called Clyne, being ſituated on an inclined plain. This name was given in alluſion to Fitzgerald, who came from Ireland, and who was the progenitor of the M'Kenzies.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—About half a mile to the weſt of the houſe of Clyne, and a quarter of a mile to the north of the poſt road, is a remarkable piece of antiquity, which plainly appears to have been erected by the Druids, and uſed by them as a place of ſacred worſhip. It conſiſts of a ſingle row of twelve large ſtones, placed upright, and ſo diſpoſed as to form two ovals, which are joined to each other. The areas of theſe ovals are equal; they are 13 feet from eaſt to weſt, and 10 feet in the middle from north to ſouth. At the weſt end of one of them is a ſtone, which riſes 8 feet above the

ſurface

ſurface of the earth; the other ſtones are from 4 to 6 feet long. There is alſo, in the middle of this oval, a flat ſtone, which was probably the altar; it ſeems to have ſtood formerly at the eaſt end, but has been thrown down by ſome accident. Diſtant about 3 paces from the eaſtern oval is a circular hollow, ſaid to have been a well of a conſiderable depth, but it is now filled up; its diameter at top is 8 feet. Theſe ovals are ſituated on the top of an eminence, round which are marked out three concentric circles; one at the bottom, another 28 paces above the former, and the third 12 paces higher, immediately ſurrounding the ovals. The circumference of the firſt is 80, of the ſecond 50, and of the third, or higheſt circle, 35 paces. It is obſervable, that theſe curious remains have a great reſemblance to many others in different places of Great Britain, particularly to thoſe in the pariſh of Addington, near Malling in Kent, (an account of which is given by Mr Colebrooke in the Archæologia, vol. ii. page 107.), and the celebrated ones at Stonehenge in Wiltſhire *. Large conical heaps of ſtones, or cairns, as they are called, are to be met with on the tops of many of the hills and eminences in the pariſh. About 800 paces to the weſt of the above ruin is a circular cairn, in diameter about 30 paces, containing, in the center, a grave 3 feet 6 inches long, 18 inches broad, and 14 inches deep, neatly lined with four flat ſtones, and covered by another. There are alſo at the circumference three graves of the ſame dimenſions, on the eaſt, ſouth, and weſt, but they are in a more ruinous condition than the central one. It is probable that theſe were the ſepulchres of a certain family or tribe; the chief was buried in

* In order to make the above deſcription more eaſily underſtood, Mr Robertſon ſubjoined a ſketch of the form and ſituation of theſe ſtones; and the Editor is ſorry that the plan of this work would not ſuffer an engraving of it to be made.

in the center, and his relatives or dependents at certain diſtances around him. But we ſhall be at a loſs to account for the ſmallneſs of theſe graves, unleſs we ſuppoſe them to have contained only the aſhes or bowels of the deceaſed perſon. Theſe, it is likely, were depoſited in earthen pitchers or vaſes, as ſeveral veſſels of that kind have been dug up by the plough in the neighbourhood of theſe cairns. There is alſo on the north ſide of the river Skiack, and nearly oppoſite to the village of Drummond, a grave of an oblong form, lined with ſtone in the ſame manner as thoſe above deſcribed; it is called the Prieſt's Sepulchre, and is 7 feet long, 3 broad, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ deep. It is evident from theſe remains, and many others of a ſimilar nature, which abound in almoſt every part of the Highlands of Scotland, that it was the cuſtom of our anceſtors to cover their burying places with heaps of ſtones; and the reaſon probably was, to prevent the bodies from being dug up, and devoured by the wolves, wild boars, and other beaſts of prey, which then infeſted the country *. There are ruins of five different chapels and burying places in this pariſh, viz. one at Balcony, called St Ninian's Chapel, one at Culnaſkeath, one at Weſter Fowlis, one at Kilchoan, and one at Limlair, near the ſea ſhore, called St Mary's Chapel. Several families continue ſtill to bury at the laſt named church-yard, and there are ſome veſtiges of the manſe, or miniſter's houſe, contiguous to it. The laſt incumbent's name was Mr Henry Kincaid, who ſeems to have lived about the beginning of the laſt century; for it appears from ſome records that he diſpoſed of certain teinds to the Baron of Fowlis in 1607.

The

* "I'll add a ſtone to your cairn," was formerly a proverbial expreſſion of friendſhip among the Highlanders.

The natural curioſity that chiefly deſerves notice is the rock called Craig-grande, or the *ugly rock*. This is a deep chaſm or abyſs, formed by two oppoſite precipices that riſe perpendicularly to a great height, through which the Ault-grande runs for the ſpace of 2 miles. It begins at the diſtance of 4 miles from the ſea, by a bold projection into the channel of the river, which it diminiſhes in breadth by at leaſt one half. The river continues to run with rapidity for about three quarters of a mile, when it is confined by a ſudden jutting out of the rock. Here, the ſide view from the ſummit is very ſtriking. The courſe of the ſtream being thus impeded, it whirls and foams, and beats with violence againſt the oppoſing rock, till, collecting ſtrength, it ſhoots up perpendicularly with great fury, and, forcing its way, darts with the ſwiftneſs of an arrow through the winding paſſage on the other ſide. After paſſing this obſtruction, it becomes in many places inviſible, owing partly to the increaſing depth and narrowneſs of the chaſm, and partly to the view being intercepted by the numerous branches of trees which grow on each ſide of the precipice. About a quarter of a mile farther down, the country people have thrown a ſlight bridge, compoſed of trunks of trees covered with turf, over the rock, where the chaſm is about 16 feet wide. Here the obſerver, if he has intrepidity enough to venture himſelf on ſuch a tottering ſupport, and can look down on the gulph below without any uneaſy ſenſations, will be gratified with a view equally awful and aſtoniſhing. The wildneſs of the ſteep and rugged rocks; the gloomy horror of the cliffs and caverns, "inacceſſible by mortal's trod," and where the genial rays of the ſun never yet penetrated; the water falls which are heard pouring down in different places of the precipice, with ſounds various in proportion to their diſtance; the hoarſe and hollow murmuring of the river, which runs at the depth of near

130 feet below the ſurface of the earth; the fine groves of pines, which majeſtically climb the ſides of a beautiful eminence, that riſes immediately from the brink of the chaſm; all theſe objects cannot be contemplated without exciting emotions of wonder and admiration in the mind of every beholder. The appearance of this ſingular and picturesque ſcene, will naturally bring to the recollection of the claſſical ſpectator thoſe beautiful lines of Virgil, in which he deſcribes the gulph, through which his Alecto ſhoots herſelf into the infernal regions:

——— denſis hunc frondibus atrum
Urget utrimque latus nemoris, medioque fragoſus
Dat ſonitum ſaxis et torto vortice torrens.
Hic ſpecus horrendum, et ſaevi ſpiracula Ditis
Monſtrantur; ruptoque ingens Acheronte vorago
Peſtiferas aperit fauces:———

Critics may labour to convey the force and meaning of the author's words; and travellers may, by their ingenious deſcriptions, give us a ſtill more lively idea of their beauty and propriety; but he who would ſee a living commentary on this noble paſſage, muſt viſit the rock of Aultgrande. There is alſo a moſt delightful ride from the church of Kiltearn to Ardullie by the ſea ſide, which is only fordable at low water. Here the traveller has the ſea on the one hand, and a fine view of Ferntoſh on the oppoſite ſide of the bay. On the other hand there is a bank covered with various trees and ſhrubs. as oak, beech, larix, ſpruce fir; and about half way there is a perpendicular rock, about 30 feet high, alſo covered with ſhrubbery. Here there is a natural caſcade, or fall of water. and cloſe to the fall an artificial grove, and ſeat, planted around with flowers, and ſome ornaments fixed in the

the face of the rock; all which is very gratifying to any one who takes a forenoon's ride for pleasure. But, as the fine plantations contribute so much to the beauty of this parish, we cannot avoid taking notice of it as a remarkable event, greatly to be regretted, that, upon the 17th day of January 1791, the high wind broke down, and tore up by the roots, about 6000 fine firs in the different plantations upon the estate of Fowlis. We must not omit to take notice of a place called Corrivackie, which is so situated behind the great hill of Uaish, that the sun does not shine there from November to the beginning of March.

Church.—It has never been ascertained beyond a doubt who is patron of this parish. The only claimants are, the Crown, and the family of Fowlis. All the ministers from the Revolution, down to 1770, were settled by a call from the heritors. The present incumbent, and his predecessor, were settled by royal presentations. Mr Harry Robertson was translated from Clyne to Kiltearn the 9th May 1776. He has been married since 1772, and has 8 children now living, 4 sons and 4 daughters. The church of this parish was handsomely rebuilt in 1790, at the expence of L. 700 Sterling. The manse and offices were built in 1762, at a very moderate expence. They require some repairs; and there is no doubt that they will soon be made comfortable. The stipend consists of 136 bolls, half oat-meal, and half barley, and L. 32 Sterling, with a glebe of 4 acres arable ground, without any grass.

Eminent Men.—Though every age, and every soil, does not produce men of eminent talents, it cannot be denied that Kiltearn has given birth to several who have done honour to their native country. The Munros have distinguished themselves

ſelves, at different periods, by their martial ſpirit and warlike atchievements. This circumſtance is taken notice of by Buchanan, in the 17th book of his Hiſtory, where, after ſpeaking of the difficulties in which Mary Queen of Scots was involved at Inverneſs, he adds, "That, as ſoon as they heard "of their Sovereign's danger, a great number of the antient "Scots poured in around her, eſpecially the Fraſers and "Munros, which (ſays he) were eſteemed among the moſt "valiant of the clans inhabiting thoſe countries." And, in the war carried on by Guſtavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, againſt the Emperor Ferdinand II. there were ſo many of the name of Munro, that, among the officers of that name who ſerved in that war, there were 3 generals, 8 colonels, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 11 majors, and above 30 captains, beſides a great number of ſubalterns. Many of them gained great reputation in this war, particularly their chief, Robert Munro, the 21ſt Baron of Fowlis, who ſo diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his military conduct, that he was made colonel of two regiments at the ſame time, one of foot, and another of horſe. It is not neceſſary, on this occaſion, to enumerate the ſeveral illuſtrious characters that ſprung from the houſe of Fowlis, as this has already employed the pen of a very learned and pious writer *. But, it would be unpardonable to omit mentioning the late Sir Robert Munro, who was killed at the battle of Falkirk on the 17th January 1746. There are ſtill many living witneſſes to atteſt how great an ornament he was to his name and to his country. His conduct at the battle of Fontenoy was heard with juſt applauſe through all Great Britain; and there is ſtill extant a copy of a let-

* Vide an account of the antient family of the Munros of Fowlis, in the appendix to the Life of Colonel Gardiner, by the late Dr Doddridge.

ter from the Elector Palatine to his envoy at London, deſiring him to thank the King of Great Britain, in his name, for the excellent behaviour of the Highland regiment, while they were in his territories, "which, (as he ſays expreſsly) "was owing to the care of Sir Robert Munro, their lieute-"nant-colonel; for whoſe ſake (he adds) he ſhould always "pay a regard to a Scotſman for the future." Sir Harry Munro, ſon to Sir Robert juſt mentioned, was highly diſtinguiſhed in another line, as a ſcholar of the firſt rank. In claſſical learning he was an uncommon proficient. He laid the foundation of his learning at Weſtminſter ſchool, and perfected it at the univerſity of Leyden. He employed his leiſure hours, for near 20 years, in writing a large critical work upon Buchanan's Pſalms, which he finiſhed, and left completely prepared for the preſs. This work he ſubmitted to the review of the late learned Mr Thomas Ruddiman, who gave his approbation of it, and paid the higheſt compliments to the claſſical knowledge and critical abilities of Sir Harry; which appears by a holograph letter of Mr Ruddiman's, ſtill extant in the library at Fowlis. Sir Harry having gone to Edinburgh for the recovery of his health, died there on the 12th June 1781. Some divines have alſo flouriſhed in Kiltearn that would do honour to any pariſh; but we ſhall only mention two. The firſt is Mr Donald Munro. This eminent man, cotemporary with the celebrated Buchanan, was deſcended of the family of Coul, a branch of the Munro's. He was firſt Archdeacon of the Iſles, and gave Buchanan a deſcription of them, which he acknowledges in his Hiſtory: He was afterwards appointed ſuperintendant of Roſs, and parſon of Kiltearn. The other is Mr Thomas Hog, who was ſettled miniſter at Kiltearn in 1655, but was turned out at the reſtoration to make way for an Epiſcopal miniſter. He ſuffered much perſecution, being long impriſoned in the Baſs: When

When he obtained his liberty he retired to Holland, where he was highly eſteemed for his learning and piety. There is a pamphlet publiſhed, containing memoirs of his life, and many remarkable anecdotes of him. There are ſeveral facts well atteſted, which indicate that he had a remarkable preſentiment of future events reſpecting the Church in general, and himſelf in particular. Even at a period when, to all human appearance, it was moſt unlikely, and when he was obliged to fly from his country and charge, he foretold, with the moſt aſſured confidence, that there would be ſuch a revolution as happened afterwards, and that he ſhould return to his charge at Kiltearn, and be buried there; which accordingly turned out as he had ſaid. And, in conſideration of his eminent worth, and great ſufferings, King William was pleaſed to appoint him one of his Chaplains for Scotland; but he died very ſoon after his appointment, at Kiltearn, in 1692, and is buried at the entry to the ſouth-weſt door of the church. Some perſon, out of reſpect for his memory, and zealous to expreſs the ſenſe he had of Mr Hogg's uncommon worth, cauſed the following ſingular inſcription to be put on his grave-ſtone: "This ſtone will witneſs againſt the pa-"riſhioners of Kiltearn, if ever they bring in an ungodly "miniſter here." But, while we pay the juſt tribute of praiſe to thoſe whoſe ſtations and advantages of education enabled them to diſtinguiſh themſelves in the world, it would be unjuſt to overlook thoſe bloſſoms of genius that ſhoot forth in the humble walks of life. Here, a watchmaker in this pariſh naturally occurs to our view. This man (now about 30 years of age) was born and brought up in the Highland diſtrict of this pariſh, and, although he never ſaw a watch or clock till he was grown up to manhood, yet, by mere intuition, has made ſeveral clocks of coarſe materials, which go well. He only wants a little inſtruction and aſſiſtance to make a figure in

in his line. It is a pity that he can neither read nor write, and hardly ſpeaks Engliſh. There is alſo a ſchool-boy, about 16 years of age, who diſcovers a good taſte for drawing, and promiſes to arrive at ſome eminence in that art, if his genius was properly cultivated: As he is of a weak conſtitution, he is not fit for any hard labour. Such inſtances of genius, who want the advantages of education, are frequently to be met with in the world, and naturally ſuggeſt to the feeling heart that thought which Mr Gray ſo beautifully expreſſes in his Elegy:

"Perhaps, in this neglected ſpot, is laid
"Some heart once pregnant with celeſtial fire;
"Hands, that the rod of empire might have ſway'd,
"Or wak'd to ecſtacy the living lyre:
"But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,
"Rich with the ſpoils of time, did ne'er unrol;
"Chill penury repreſſ'd their noble rage,
"And froze the genial current of the ſoul."

NUM-

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF ROTHESAY.

By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD M'LEA.

Name, Situation, Extent.

THE antient Gaelic and patronimic name of the parish is Cilla'bhruic. The modern, and perhaps the antient name, by which it was generally known, by those particularly who do not speak the Gaelic language, is Rothesay. The meaning of Cilla'bhruic is, The church dedicated to St Broke, of which he is the tutelar saint. There is a yearly fair held in the town of Rothesay, called Feil-bhruic, or St Broke's fair. The etymology of Rothesay is not fully ascertained. Some suppose it Danish. If it is of Gaelic original, the most natural and probable etymology of it is, Riogh-Suidhe, that is, The King's seat, perhaps from there being an old castle in it, called the Castle of Rothesay, sometimes the residence of certain of the Kings of Scotland. By those who speak the Gaelic language, the parish is always called Cilla'bhruic, or Sgireachd Bhruic, that is, St Broke's parish. And the town of Rothesay is called Bailea Mhoide, or, The town where the court of justice is held. The island of Bute itself is called, in that language, Oilean a' Mhoide, or, The island where the court of justice sits. The parish is situated in the island and county of Bute. From the reformation to the year

1639,

1639, while preſbytery was the eſtabliſhed form of church government, the pariſh of Rotheſay was within the preſbytery of Irvine or Cuninghame, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Air. In the year 1639, it was disjoined from that preſbytery and ſynod, and annexed to the Preſbytery of Denoon, and ſynod of Argyle, to which it ſtill continues united. In the time of Epiſcopacy, it was within the dioceſe of the Iſles; and, by the act of parliament in 1617, appointing the chapter of the Biſhop of the Iſles, the Parſon of Rotheſay was made Subdean of the Iſles. The pariſh may be about ten miles long, and from three to four broad.

Population.—There is no particular account of the antient ſtate of the population of the pariſh; but, from the number of ruinous and waſte houſes which were in the town of Rotheſay, it would appear to have been pretty populous, and of ſome note at an early period. About the year 1762, ſome of theſe ruins were begun to be rebuilt; and, ſince that period, the town has been gradually increaſing ſo much, that, not only the former ruinous houſes have been all re-built, but a number of new ſtreets laid out and finiſhed.

Number of ſouls in the pariſh of Rotheſay the following years, diſtinguiſhing the number reſiding in the country, and the number reſiding within the territory of the town of Rotheſay, taken from the Examination Roll of each year.

Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.	Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.
1766	1500	1158	2658	1771	1677	1411	3088
1767	1510	1181	2691	1772	1609	1387	2996
1768	1597	1254	2851	1773	1626	1352	2978
1769	1667	1326	2993	1774	1628	1343	2971
1770	1661	1470	3131	1775	1606	1359	2965

Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.	Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.
1776	1628	1400	3028	1784	1421	1983	3404
1777	1554	1387	2941	1785	1424	2080	3504
1778	1563	1525	3088	1786	1430	2180	3610
1779	1566	1601	3167	1787	1406	2293	3699
1780	1592	1669	3261	1788	1436	2336	3772
1781	1543	1701	3244	1789	1432	2441	3873
1782	1515	1807	3322	1790	1425	2607	4032
1783	1485	1904	3389				

Number of the marriages and baptisms in the parish of Rothesay in the following years.

	Mar.	Bap.		Mar.	Bap.
1692	21	51	1760	16	96
1700	15	49	1770	25	110
1710	11	43	1780	30	96
1720	19	78	1790	42	124
1730	17	67			
1740	10	82		209	825
1750	24	80			

The regiſter for baptiſms and marriages, but not of deaths, have been pretty diſtinctly kept in this pariſh ſince 1691, until theſe regiſters were taxed, within theſe few years, by act of parliament. As an object of taxation, it muſt turn to little account. As an object of police, attention to theſe regiſters might become of conſiderable importance to the ſtate. Were the preſent tax given to the kirk-ſeſſion-clerk, as a ſalary for keeping the regiſters of baptiſms, marriages, and burials, in each pariſh, in a regular diſtinct manner; and for making out yearly, at a particular term, a full extract of each, to be certified by the miniſter

of

of the pariſh, as a true and exact copy; or by three elders in caſe of a vacancy; together with an authentic account of the number of ſouls in the pariſh, made out in ſuch manner as might be found neceſſary; and this extract and note of the number of ſouls in the pariſh to be lodged, upon a certain day, each year, in an office at Edinburgh, appointed for that purpoſe; it would be a ſource of valuable information, to which recourſe might be had, when found neceſſary, with little trouble. The cauſe of the increaſe of the population in the town of Rotheſay, ſince the year 1766, may be a cuſtom-houſe eſtabliſhed there in 1765, the herring fiſhery, and a cotton ſpinning mill, erected there about twelve or thirteen years ago.

Church and Stipend, &c.—The church was built about the year 1690, and the manſe in 1757. The ſtipend is about L. 80 Sterling, excluſive of the manſe and glebe. The Earl of Bute is patron. There are four heritors in the country part of the pariſh, and a number of ſmall proprietors within the territory of the town. The number of poor perſons receiving charity may be about 70. The amount of collections and funds for their ſupport is about L. 60.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The language principally ſpoken in the pariſh is the Gaelic; the names of the places ſeem, in general, to be derived from it. There is an old caſtle in the town of Rotheſay, now a ruin, but formerly ſometimes the reſidence of the Kings of Scotland, and afterwards inhabited by the family of Bute, heritable conſtables of it, till it was burnt during the troubles in 1685. The fuel uſed in the country part of the pariſh is peat, and ſome coal. Scarcely any thing but coal is uſed in the town. It is generally imported from Glaſgow, at a great expence. The price

price at shipping there is 3 s. 6 d. a cart; but the river-dues, or tonnage duty, &c. nearly double the price at Rothesay. The price of provisions, till within these twenty or twenty-five years, was moderate; but, during that period, has been gradually rising, and is now regulated, in a great measure, by the Greenock market, one of the dearest in Scotland. The price of labour of all kinds has advanced greatly within these few years. A day labourer, about twenty years ago, could have been hired for 6 d 7 d. or 8 d a day; but now they require 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. The people are industrious. There is a cotton spinning mill erected in the town of Rothesay, which employs about 300 hands, young and old. Many, both young and old, are also employed in spinning, and in making and mending nets. The people are particularly fond of a a sea faring life. About thirty years ago, all the boats belonging to the parish, except one or two half-decked barks of about fifteen tons for carrying coals, were open boats, like those commonly used for catching herrings; having in generally in that employment four men, or at least three men and a boy; and of these there might be from a hundred to a hundred and twenty. But now, besides, from twelve to twenty of open boats, there may be between eighty and a hundred vessels belonging to the parish, from fifteen to one hundred tons burden.

During the last war, there were a number of seamen from the parish in the navy service; and, had the prize-money due to them been properly accounted for, it is believed that press-warrants would have been unnecessary here; but, as matters are at present managed, nothing but compulsion will induce them to enter into the navy service. Many of them, to whom prize-money is due, can get no account of, nor even find out the agent in whose hands it is. Would it not an-

anſwer the purpoſes of government equally well, were the management of prizes put into the hands of the pay-office, and government become accountable for it, as well as their wages; and, inſtead of obliging the ſeamen to employ agents and attornies, at a great expence and riſk, might not the inſpector of the pay-office correſpond with the miniſters of the different parithes to which the ſeamen belong, (which he is even at preſent ſometimes obliged to do), and the ſituation and circumſtances of each ſeaman's right and claim being, in the courſe of the correſpondence, aſcertained, payment might be had at the neareſt bank, or an order given upon the neareſt cuſtomhouſe, without either riſk or expence? By adopting ſome meaſure of this kind, the miniſters of the pariſhes where there are ſea-faring people would have much leſs trouble than they frequently have by the preſent mode of management, and would at the ſame time have the ſatisfaction of ſeeing juſtice done to a ſet of brave fellows, who have riſked their lives in the ſervice of their country.

The people enjoy, in a conſiderable degree, the comforts and advantages of ſociety, and ſeem contented with their ſituation and circumſtances.

The principal grievances under which the people labour, is the partial and oppreſſive duty on coals, to which, from their ſituation, they are ſubjected. Could this grievance be removed, either by freeing them from it altogether, or by laying a very trifling general duty on coals at the pit, it would be a great relief to the people, and be a much more productive tax to government.

The

The peculiar advantages which the parish has, are the number of safe harbours and anchorages, viz. The Bay of Rothesay and of Kaimes, the Keils of Bute, and the Bay of St Ninians.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF KINGARTH.

By the Rev. Mr JAMES THORBURN.

Name and Extent.

THIS pariſh, ſituated in the iſland of Bute, has its name from ſome rugged rocks on the ſouth end of it, againſt which, when the wind blows from the ſouth, the waves of the ſea beat with great violence. In the original Gaelic, it ſignifies, 'A bold furious head.' It is about ſeven miles long from north to ſouth, and, at an average, two miles broad from eaſt to weſt; bounded by the pariſh of Rothesay on the north and north-weſt; by the ſea on the weſt, eaſt, and ſouth.

Surface, Soil, &c.—When viewed at a diſtance, the ſurface has a flat appearance, although there is a gradual aſcent from the eaſt and weſt ſhores to the middle of the pariſh. There are a few little hills on the ſouth part of it, but none of them remarkably high. There are ſome plantations of fir trees, &c.; but the largeſt plantations are round the houſe of Mount Stuart, the ſeat of the Earl of Bute, where there are a great many fine trees of different kinds. The houſe is elegant, and is moſt delightfully ſituated, about 200 yards from the eaſt ſhore, having a near view of all the ſhipping of the Frith of Clyde

Clyde paſſing and repaſſing. Nearly the whole of the pariſh is incloſed and ſubdivided with ditch and hedge, which afford ſhelter and warmth, and make an agreeable appearance. The ſoil, in general, is light and ſandy, fit (when properly cultivated, which it has been in ſome farms, but particularly about Mount Stuart, where fields have been, and are ſtill cultivated to the higheſt perfection), for crops of barley, turnip, rye-graſs, and clover of every kind. Incloſed land is let, at an average, from 10 s. to 15 s. per acre; outfield land from 3 s. to 3 s. 6 d. per acre. Farms, at an average, from L. 30 to L. 60 per farm. Nearly the one-half of the rents are paid by barley; the other half by oats and cattle. The tenants find a ready ſale for their barley to the diſtillers of whiſky in the iſland. For ſome years paſt, the price of barley has been, at an average, from 18 s. to 20 s. per boll. The pariſh likewiſe produces oats. Perhaps too many are ſown in this ſoil. The price of oats, for ſeven years paſt, has been from 14 s. to 16 s. per boll. Largs is the only market town for oats. Potatoes are in great plenty; and theſe, with herrings, are the chief maintenance of the greateſt number of the inhabitants for three quarters of the year. Clover and rye-graſs hay is ſold to the inhabitants of Rotheſay at 4 s. and 5 s. per truſs, equal to 15 ſtone Engliſh. The average price of oat-meal, for ſeven years, has been from 16 s. to 18 s. per boll, 9 ſtone weight in the boll.

Cattle.—The breed of horſes is much improved of late. Every farmer has a cart or carts, according to the ſize of his farm. About twenty years ago there were none in the pariſh, except at Mount Stuart. Black cattle are not much improved, owing to their ſcanty feeding when young.

Poor.—The poor are maintained by weekly collections.

By

By act of the kirk-session, every one who is admitted to be a constant pensioner must sign a disposition of his effects (if any, at his or her decease), to the kirk-session, to be given to the surviving poor. Since the year 1782, we have few or rather no beggars. By the beneficence of the Earl of Bute, and by other charitable donations, they have not been so necessitous as they were before the year 1782.

Servants.—Their wages are advanced of late more than a third. Men-servants wages are from L. 6 to L. 8 *per annum*; women-servants wages are from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*; day-labourers have in winter from 6 d. to 8 d. a day, with their maintenance; in spring and summer from 8 d. to 10 d; in harvest, women hired by the day have 8 d. a day, and their dinner; if hired for the whole time of harvest, from 16 s. to 18 s. and their maintenance. There are no men-reapers; the corn is all cut down by women; and the men tie the sheaves and stook them.

Fish and game.—There are fish of almost every kind on each side of the parish; but the natives never fish for any kind, excepting herrings. Of these they are uncommonly fond, which prevents them from trying to catch others. In the spring, when they are not employed at the herring-fishery, would they apply themselves to the catching of cod and haddocks, &c. they would surely be gainers. Fish of the above kinds are taken by north country strolling fishermen, and sold at high prices. Hares, partridges, and snipes, are in plenty. There are likewise green and grey plovers; some winters a great many woodcocks, abundance of ducks and teel, with other sea-fowl, which are common to the western shores of Scotland.

Climate.

Climate.—This parish, though damp, is mild and temperate, and very healthy, owing probably to the saline particles impregnating the air, and the dry sandy soil of the parish. There are no epidemical diseases in the parish. The only distemper is the rheumatism; but it is not frequent. There are many instances of longevity in the parish. Three men died this winter, one 94, each of the other two 84 years old.

Language and Character.—Most of the natives speak English very well; although, in conversing with one another, they seem to be fond of the Gaelic, their mother tongue, which chiefly prevails among the old people, and may have been an hindrance to the more easy and more ready introduction of new methods of improvements in the parish. They are a sober, peaceable, and charitable people.

Patron, Heritors, and Stipend, &c. The Earl of Bute is patron, and almost sole proprietor of the parish. There are only four heritors of small property, not amounting to L. 200 *per annum*. The stipend consists of 78 bolls of victual, half meal, half barley; the meal at 9 stone weight per boll, the barley 4 firlots per boll; L. 36 : 15 : 4 Sterling of money, with a manse and glebe. The manse and office-houses were all new built in 1769. There are three churches in the parish. One of them is built near the south end, between the year 1000 and 1100. It is now almost in ruins. The other two are in pretty good repair, particularly the one on the shore near Mount Stuart House. Worship is only performed in it when any of the family are there. The other kirk is the ordinary place of worship, named the Mid-Kirk, being more centrical for the inhabitants.

Schools.

Schools.—There are at present three schools. 1st, A parish school, the salary L. 6 Sterling; 2d, a school, endowed and supported by the society for propagating Christian knowledge, salary only L. 6 *per annum*, a free house, kale-yard, and a cow, maintained summer and winter by the district. It is situated on the north-west side of the parish, where young children are too far from the parochial school. The 3d is in the north west quarter of the parish; and the teacher is paid by the inhabitants of that quarter.

Antiquities.—On the south-west part of the parish, on a little rocky hill, there are evident vestiges of a vitrified wall, said to be a Danish fort; but it seems more probable that it was made by the inhabitants to defend the island from the attacks of the Danes and Norwegians. The hill, in the original, signifies, 'The hill of the Lowland men.' On a plain piece of ground, at a little distance from the the Mid-Kirk, there are evident remains of a Druidical temple, three large stones of which are still standing. It had been surrounded with wood. There are large trunks of oak-trees in a morass, not above 200 yards from the temple.

Marriages, Births, and Burials.

Abstract for seven years.

	Marriages.	Births.		Burials.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
From 1784 to 1785	13	16	13	7	5
From 1785 to 1786	9	14	15	4	7
From 1786 to 1787	12	16	13	7	6
From 1787 to 1788	10	12	11	10	6
From 1788 to 1789	10	13	10	6	4
From 1789 to 1790	11	13	17	3	2
From 1790 to 1791	16	11	9	5	3

By a liſt taken in March 1791, the number of the inhabitants is 727. They have decreaſed 230 within theſe fifteen years. The reaſon is, that the town of Rotheſay finds employment for day labourers, and other workmen, and affords them higher wages than they can receive in a country pariſh. The population, according to Dr Webſter, was 979 ſouls.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—There is a ready ſale for every kind of produce, either at Rotheſay, Greenock, or the Largs. There are two packets every week from Rotheſay, and a ferry-boat once every week from Scoulay, near Mount Stuart, to the Largs. Few of the inhabitants export their own commodities; buyers come to the iſland, and are at the expence of ferrying them over to the other ſide. The diſadvantages are, 1ſt, Want of coal. Trials have been often made to find coal, and within this five years by Lord Mount Stuart ſending men ſkilled in that employment from Newcaſtle; but unfortunately all their trials were ineffectual. The pariſh abounds with limeſtone, and, if a good ſeam of coal could be found, the iſland would be the wealthieſt in the kingdom. Poſſibly that may yet be effected, if farther trials were made. 2dly, The farmers being employed the moſt part of the ſummer in caſting and leading peats, cannot provide manure for their farms, the ſummer ſeaſon being the fitteſt for that purpoſe; but what for ſome years paſt appears to be the greateſt diſadvantage to the farming intereſt of the pariſh is the bounty to the buſs-fiſhing, which is carried on to a great extent in Rotheſay. Few farmer's ſons are bred to farming. To purchaſe a ſmall ſhare in a herring buſs, and become maſter of it, ſeems to be their great ambition It is a fact, that all the young men of the pariſh engage in the herring fiſhery; and, when once engaged, though they have

an opportunity of working in the farming line all ſpring, and receiving good wages, few or none are willing to work. This has formerly juſtly raiſed a complaint among the farmers, and at preſent their greateſt. Might not government ſuſpend the bounty for two or three years in order to try its effects?

NUM.

NUMBER XXXIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF HOUSTOUN AND KILLALLAN.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN MONTEATH.

HOUSTOUN and Killallan were originally ſeparate pariſhes, but ſo intermixed, with reſpect to their local ſituation, that the people in one quarter of Killallan were obliged, if they kept the high road, to travel every Sunday cloſe by the gate of Houſtoun kirk, to attend public worſhip at Killallan, near two Engliſh miles up the country; and another quarter to travel acroſs the middle of Houſtoun pariſh, to Killallan, for the ſame purpoſe. This inconvenient ſituation of the pariſhes made it neceſſary for both to join together in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and to obſerve all the holidays uſual on that occaſion. Both pariſhes being ſmall, and the examinable perſons in both ſcarcely amounting to 600; the ſtipends not a ſufficient proviſion for the miniſters in ſuch an expenſive part of the country, the one valued at 900, the other at 1000 merks; the teinds exhauſted; no augmentation could therefore be obtained. From theſe conſiderations, the patrons and heritors of both pariſhes, with conſent of the preſbytery, agreed to petition the Lords Commiſſioners appointed for plantation of kirks, &c. to have them united

united into one parish, to be called the United Parishes of Houstoun and Killallan. The Lords gave a decreet for that purpose in the year 1760, with this provision, that the then incumbents should enjoy their stipends, manses, and glebes, and exercise their pastoral office in their respective parishes, till the death, transportation, or deprivation, of the one of them; and the patrons to exercise the right of presenting in a vacancy by turns; and ordained the kirk at Houstoun to be the only kirk of the united parishes in future.

Origin of the Names.—Killallan, or Killellen, according to an inscription on the kirk bell, seems to be a corruption of Killfillan, i. e *Cella Fillani*, the tutelar saint of the parish. There is a large stone a little distant from the kirk, with a hollow in the middle, called Fillan's Seat; a little farther, a spring well, called Fillan's Well, issuing from under a rock, shaded with bushes hanging over it, to which, it is reported, that the country women used to bring their weak and rickety children, and bathe them in the water, leaving some pieces of cloth as a present, or offering, to the Saint, on the bushes. This custom continued till about the end of the last century, when one Mr Hutcheson, who was then minister, caused the well to be filled with stones. There is a fair held in the month of January, called Fillan's Fair, and Fillan's Day. The font stone for holding the holy water, in times of Popery, stood long without the quire door, after the reformation, but is now built in the church-yard wall.

Houstoun, in antient times, was called Hilpeter, i. e. *Cella Petri*, the tutelary saint. There is a well at a little distance, to the north-west of the church, called St Peter's Well; it is covered with a wall of cut free-stone, arched in the roof, from which flows a plentiful stream of excellent water; and

a

a ſtream of water paſſing hard by is called Peter's Burn. There is a fair held in the month of July in the village, called Peter's Day. Houſtoun, the more modern name of the pariſh, may be ſuppoſed to be a corruption of Hew's town, perhaps from Hugo de Padvinan, who is ſaid by Mr Crawfurd, in his Hiſtory of Renfrewſhire, to have obtained a grant of the barony of Kilpeter from Baldwin of Biggar, ſheriff of Lanark in the reign of Malcolm IV. When families began to aſſume ſirnames from their hereditary lands and baronies, his deſcendants may be ſuppoſed to have aſſumed the name of Hew's town; and, in proceſs of time, might be changed into Houſtoun. One of Hugo de Padvinan's ſucceſſors, who lived in the reign of King Alexander III. is called, in an antient charter, Sir Finlay de Houſtoun; which ſirname continued in the family for ſeveral hundred years. We are alſo informed by Mr Crawfurd, that Patrick, one of Hugh de Padvinan's ſucceſſors, obtained the honour of knighthood from James V. of Scotland; perhaps a renewal and confirmation of a former grant of that honour to his predeceſſors. The barony of Houſtoun comprehends the whole pariſh of Houſtoun, and a ſmall part of Killallan. Before the union of the two pariſhes, there was not a ſingle feuer in the pariſh and barony of Houſtoun. About 50 years ago, it was ſold to Sir John Schaw of Greenock; and ſoon after, by him, to Sir James Campbell from Jamaica; and by his heirs to Governour Macrae. It has been in the poſſeſſion of ſeveral proprietors ſince it went out of the Houſtoun family, and is now the property of Archibald Speirs, Eſq; of Elderſlie. The preſent barony officer, a man near 80, ſays, he remembers to have ſeen 14 lairds or proprietors of Houſtoun.

Situation and Extent.—The ſituation of the united pariſhes of Houſtoun and Killallan is in the ſhire of Renfrew, originally

nally called Strathgryfe, from one of its principal rivers: They are bounded on the weſt by Kilmalcolm; on the ſouth by Kilbarchan; on the north and eaſt by the pariſh of Erſkine, which ſeparates it from Clyde. It is about 6 Engliſh miles long; about 3 miles broad; and 5 miles diſtant from Paiſley, which is the preſbytery ſeat. The church of Houſtoun is about 9 Scots miles weſt of Glaſgow, 6 from Port-Glaſgow, and 8 from Greenock.

The only conſiderable river is Gryfe, which ſeparates it from Kilbarchan on the ſouth. This river hath its ſource in the high moors and mountains that are ſituated between Kilmalcolm and the Largs, on the coaſt of the Firth of Clyde. It is compoſed of ſeveral ſtreams, which unite near the manſion-houſe of Duchal. It runs rapidly, over ſeveral precipices, to the low country at Fullwood, where it meets the tide; after which it moves ſlowly, in a ſerpentine courſe, receiving the river Black Cart at Moſs Walkinſhaw, and White Cart at Inchinnan bridge, and thence into Clyde, a mile below Renfrew. In this river there is trout, moſt plenty towards the high moors; in the lower part pike and perch; and, with the firſt flood in June or July, ſalmon come up the river from Clyde, and ſtill more with floods in Auguſt, and continue in the river till ſpawning time is over.

Surface and Soil.—In the upper part of the united pariſhes, the ſoil is generally thin and dry, the ſurface is unevenly mixed with many whin rocks in the higheſt parts, and much of it is covered with ſhort heath and bent graſs, moſt fit for paſturing ſheep. The ſoil is better as it deſcends toward the low country, which is a large plain, of great extent, fro the manſion-houſe of Barochan and Houſtoun, to Glaſgow and Hamilton; and in breadth, from Paiſley, and the foot of Nielſtoun

Nielſtoun pariſh, on the ſouth, to the braes and hills of Kilpatrick on the north. The ſoil in the plain is generally good, part clay, part loam, or mixed, and the rents high. The manſion-houſe of Barochan ſtands on a freeſtone rock, and Houſtoun on a whin rock, about one Engliſh mile from each other, and both almoſt on the verge of the plain. There is a large moſs in the plain, not far from Barochan, of many hundred acres, from which the country all around get peats for fuel.

Air and Climate.—The air in the upper parts of Houſtoun and Killallan is ſharp in winter; the ſnow covering the ground when there is ſcarce any at Houſtoun and Barochan, and none in the plain below; and the harveſt is often above a week earlier at Barochan, Houſtoun, and along Gryfe to Duchal and Kilmalcolm, than in any other part of the neighbouring country.

Wood and Planting.—There is a large natural wood at Houſtoun, conſiſting of oak, alder, birch, willow, and ſome aſh; beſides a great quantity of old planted timber about the manſion-houſe, conſiſting of elms, planes, aſh, limes, and ſome oaks; many of which have been lately cut down and ſold at a good price. There is alſo a conſiderable natural wood at Barochan, and another at Boghall, a ſmall barony on the north ſide of the pariſh, the property of Boyd Alexander, Eſq; of South Barr, and was once the ſeat of another family of the name of Fleming. There is alſo a great quantity of planting about the manſion houſe of Barochan, conſiſting of aſh, plane, oak, larch, and fir.

Population.—Population has lately decreaſed in the country part of the pariſh, by the union of ſmall farms. About forty years

years ago, there were 16 farms in the barony of Fullwood; there are only 8 at present. At that time, the yearly rent of that estate was little above 3000 merks; and, when lately sold, the rental, by improvement on the land, was L. 700 Sterling.

Upon a survey lately made of the inhabitants of Houstoun and Killallan, they are as follows:

Families	185
Males	510
Females	524
Under 15	361
From 15 to 70	643
Above 70	30
Servants	159
Seceders, Relief, &c.	69

The whole males and females amounting to 1034 persons.

Marriages and births entered on the parish register for the last seven years are as follows:

	Marriages.	Births.
1784	12	26
1785	11	27
1786	11	22
1787	13	20
1788	16	28
1789	8	31
1790	11	26
	82	188
Average	11¾	25$\frac{5}{7}$

It

It has not been cuſtomary to keep a regiſter of burials in the pariſhes of Houſtoun and Killallan.

The old village of Houſtoun was built near the church and manſion-houſe, and conſiſted of about 16 families. All the houſes in it belonged to the proprietor. There was not a feu in the whole pariſh. It was demoliſhed when the New Town was built, as was formerly obſerved; only one houſe and the ſchoolhouſe being left ſtanding. In the new village are 35 houſes, all built ſince the year 1781, inhabited by 57 families, which has made a conſiderable addition to the population of the pariſh Six of the houſes are two ſtories high, and two of them ſlated; many of them contain two families, or one family and a ſhop for looms. No houſes have ſince been demoliſhed of any conſequence. About twelve years ago, the manſion-houſe on the eſtate of Fullwood, which was a large, elegant, modern houſe, and made a fine appearance in the country, was demoliſhed by Mr Speirs of Elderſlie, after he purchaſed that eſtate, and entailed it. He carried ſome of the beſt of the materials to his houſe at King's Inch, and ſold the remainder. This eſtate was formerly the property of the Porterfields of Fullwood, cadets of the Duchal family. The new village of Houſtoun is neatly built; the front walls are of hewn ſtone from the manſion-houſe and tower of Houſtoun. There are five corn-mills in this pariſh, two lint and fulling-mills.

Trades and Manufactures.—The principal trade in the village is weaving. There are 42 looms, moſt of which are employed in weaving cotton, muſlins, lawns, and ſilk gauſe: There are alſo a few carpenters, taylors, and ſhoemakers. Near the village, there is a large bleachfield belonging to Meſſrs James and Thomas Carliſles from Paiſley, whereon is whiten-

ed about 50,000 ſpindles of thread and yarn, and above 3000 pieces of muſlin and lawn yearly. This and the weaving buſineſs cauſes a conſiderable circulation of money in the village and neighbourhood.

Church, Manſe, Glebe, and Stipends.—The kirk of Killallan is ſtill ſtanding, and the roof is entire. The heritors were impowered, by the decreet of annexation, to ſell the manſe, which was a bad houſe, and the glebe, to enable them to build a church at Houſtoun, ſufficient to accommodate the inhabitants of both pariſhes. The new church of Houſtoun was built in the year 1775 and can accommodate with ſeats 150 perſons beſide the pariſhioners, which is very convenient when the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is diſpenſed. The glebe at Houſtoun is about ſix acres of arable land, beſides garden, houſe, and outhouſes. The annexed ſtipend amounts to 66 bolls of oat-meal, 14 bolls of barley, and L. 78 Sterling, of old and new money ſtipends. The greateſt part of the money ſtipends ariſes from 92 bolls of oat-meal, converted by the decreet of annexation at 10 merks per boll, being the uſual converſion at that time; for which the heritors now receive 16 s. from the tenants; which has turned out to be a conſiderable diminution of the ſtipends. This was done by a petition from the heritors to the Lords, &c. with conſent of the preſbytery, becauſe a great part of the united pariſhes is more fit for paſture than tillage, and might in time be uſed for that purpoſe. The above money ſtipends comprehend L 40 Scots for communion elements. Mr Monteath, ordained Feb. 1748, is now paſtor of the united pariſhes. Mr Robert Carrick was laſt miniſter of Houſtoun previous to the annexation of the pariſhes; he was ordained in the year 1720 or 1721, and died May 1. 1771, aged 89 years, 10 months, and twenty days.

Schools.

Schools.—The public ſchool is at the church, where reading Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and ſometimes Latin, are taught. The number of ſcholars are about 40 or 50 in winter; but fewer in ſummer. There are alſo private ſchools in different parts of the pariſh. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 200 merks; he receives 4 d. for a baptiſm, and 1 s. 2 d. for a marriage proclamation; and a ſmall yearly ſum as ſeſſion-clerk, and for keeping the regiſters, particularly an exact account of the poor's funds.

Poor.—There is at preſent near 20 poor people who are ſupplied from the poor's funds: Nearly the half of them are old, and unable to work: Some of them are poor widows, and ſmall children; others infirm or diſeaſed. The poor's ſtock is L. 260; the intereſt of which, with the weekly collections at the church door, is the only means of their ſupport at preſent. They are regularly ſupplied, with more or leſs, at the beginning of each quarter, eſpecially the aged and infirm, as far as the money in the hand of the treaſurer will go.

Incloſures, and Rents of Lands, &c.—Moſt part of the pariſh is incloſed; the upper grounds with ſtone-walls, and the low lands with thorn hedges. The rent of the upper and hilly farms is from 10 s. to 15 s. an acre arable; what is rocky, and covered with heath, is of ſmall value, very ſuitable for planting the Scotch fir, larch, and oaks, though it is not yet applied to that uſeful and profitable purpoſe. The rent in the low land, of a clay and loamy ſoil, is from 20 s. to 30 s. an acre. The upper or hilly farms produce oats, ſome peaſe, barley, and good dry potatoes. The farms in the plain and low land produce oats, barley, peaſe, beans, and wheat. The farmers, of late, have left off ſowing wheat, thinking

thinking it a troublesome and unprofitable crop. They have, for many years past, sown a great quantity of ryegrass and clover-seed, which turns to good account; the hay is commonly sold at 5 d. and 6 d. a stone. They have a ready market for the hay at Greenock, &c. There was nothing but bog, or meadow hay, for horses about fifty years ago. The valuation of the united parishes of Houstoun and Killallan amounts to L. 4057 : 8 : 0 Scots. The real rent is nearly double, if not more, than it was 40 years ago. The rent of the barony of Fullwood at that time was about 6 s and 7 s. an acre, and now there is none of it below 20 s. The number of the horses in the parish cannot be well ascertained. Farmers, who have only about half a ploughgate of land, more or less, often keep only one horse in summer, buy another in winter, and hire one to make a three horse plough in the spring; and, when the ploughing is over, they sell one of them. Their horses are generally of a high price, viz. from 20 to 25 guineas. They buy them young, feed them well, and, after a year or two, sell them to advantage. The farmers who have a ploughgate of land or more keep horses in proportion to their labour. Cows cannot be said to be numerous. A farmer that has half a ploughgate of land will have 6, 7, or 8 milk cows, and a few young cattle, in proportion to their farms. In the hilly and mooriſh ground, they bring up more young cattle, on coarse pasture, than in the low part of the country, where grass is scarce, except when sown. There are not many sheep in this parish, except a few in the upper and mooriſh farms; they hurt the inclosures and the milk-cows grass.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—Oat-meal, in this shire, for some years past, has been from 11 d to 1 s. 1 d. per peck. Last year it was 1 s. 1½ d. in summer and harvest; at present it

it is generally 1 s. 1 d. It would be much dearer were there not a great quantity imported from Ireland. The produce of grain in this ſhire is not ſufficient to maintain the inhabitants one-half of the year. Paiſley, Port Glaſgow, and Greenock, are yearly increaſing; new villages, cotton and ſpinning mills are conſtantly building. The wages of mechanics, day-labourers, and ſervants, are more than double what they were 40 or 50 years ago. A day-labourer's wages is 1 s. 2d. at leaſt; a wright or houſe-carpenter 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d.; a maſon 1 s. 10 d. or 2 s.; a taylor 9 d. and 10 d. a day; men ſervants from L. 7 to L. 10 a year, if they are good ploughmen; women-ſervants, from L. 1 : 10 : 0 or L. 2 the half year, and upwards. The farmers generally work their land by hired ſervants, if they have not children fit for it, except when they occaſionally employ day-labourers for threſhing, or in harveſt. Price of fleſh meat and poultry is daily increaſing; beef, that uſed to be ſold at 3 s. is now 6 s and 7 s. a ſtone; and mutton, that uſed to be ſold 40 years ago, at 2½ d. and 3 d. a pound, is ſold at 5 d. 6 d. and 6½ d. The price of a couple of good hens 3 s. or 3 s. 4 d. Butter and cheeſe is double what it was at the above mentioned time.

Free and Lime-ſtone.—There is plenty of freeſtone in both pariſhes, of different qualities, ſofter and harder, very near the manſion-houſe of Barochan and Houſtoun. There is both coal and limeſtone in the eſtate of Houſtoun, but of a hard quality; the limeſtone is deep in the ground, and ill to burn, and is the roof of a thin coal; but, when the lime is well burnt by a ſkilful hand, though it has little effect the firſt year, its effect is more laſting than lotter lime.

Manners and Dreſs.—The inhabitants of this pariſh are generally

nerally ſober, and regular in attending public worſhip. The farmers are very induſtrious. In the ſpring they cultivate their land; in ſummer they lead lime and manure; and in the hay and corn harveſt times they are buſily employed. They are decently clothed, eſpecially the women; many of the young women and girls in the village flower lawns and muſlins, by which they not only maintain themſelves, but buy fineries. About 40 years ago, the fineſt dreſs of the women, old and young, was brown or blew cloaks, and caps; to which ſcarlet ones ſucceeded. Scarlet is now worn by the loweſt and pooreſt people. The women generally wear black ſilk cloaks, bonnets of various ſhapes, and high crowned hats, and riding habits; and the congregation on Sabbath appears like an aſſembly of well dreſſed and faſhionable ladies. So great is the change of dreſs that trade and manufactures have made among the common people in this part of the kingdom. The young men appear at kirk and market dreſſed in Engliſh cloth, and good linens. They wear hats, and bonnets are now rarely ſeen.

Antiquities.—In the barony of Barochan, and on the ſide of the public road, ſtood an antient croſs, about 11 or 12 feet high, ſet in a large pedeſtal of undreſt ſtone. The croſs had been neatly hewn, with much wreathed carving on all ſides. No letters appear on it: It is much defaced with ruin and ſtorm. In a ſquare part of the front are 2 rows of ſmall images; in the upper row there are 4 with garments to their feet; and 4 in the under row: Each ſeem to hold, in their left hand, a club over their ſhoulders, that is thickeſt at the far end. In a ſquare on the back part there are alſo 2 rows of ſmall figures, 4 in each row, much defaced, and coarſely executed: But when, by whom, or on what occaſion it was erected, there is no record or tradition. Some call

call it a Daniſh croſs: Perhaps it might be intended as a devotional croſs for travellers.

Barochan is an antient family. The original anceſtor of that name is ſaid to have come from Flanders in King David's reign; and aſſumed their ſirname and deſignation from the country of the Flemings. One of them is a witneſs to a charter in the reign of King Alexander III. and to another charter in the year 1309. In the reign of James IV. William Fleming of Barochan was ſheriff of Lanark, and killed with the King, and many of the nobility and gentry, in the battle of Floudon. This family has always been much reſpected in the country.

The croſs above mentioned was lately removed by Malcolm Fleming, Eſq; the preſent proprietor, to a neighbouring hill, where the old manſion houſe of Barochan formerly ſtood. This houſe is reported to have been burnt by the Engliſh, probably in the reign of King Edward, and his invaſion of Scotland.

The manſion-houſe of Houſtoun was alſo very antient. There was a large, and very high tower, on the north weſt corner, which was the moſt antient part of the building, with a lower houſe joined to the eaſt end of the tower, with vaults below, and a very long and wide paved hall above, with antique windows in the front, and without plaſter in the roof.

The timbers of the roof were arched, and made of maſſy oak. The other parts of the building appeared to be additions, ſubſequently made as they became neceſſary. It was a complete ſquare, with a large area in the inſide. On the front to the ſouth were two turrets, between which was the grand

entry

entry into the area, arched above, and secured by a port cullis. The building was a real fortification; being large, and built on an elevated situation, it had a lordly appearance, overlooking the whole plain towards Paisley and Glasgow. About 10 years ago it was demolished, except the east side. Mr Macrae, who was then the proprietor, desiring to have the old village near it removed to a greater distance, feued ground for building a new village; and, to encourage the people to build, he gave them the stones of the manfion-house *gratis*. The tower was so thick, and the stone and lime so strongly cemented, that they were obliged to blast it with gunpowder. Mr Macrae proposed at that time to build a new house for himself, or to make an addition to the side that was then standing, and was the newest part of the whole; but that plan was never executed; and the whole is now a ruin. The building is said to have been originally a religious house of Monks of the Cistertian order.

In an aile adjoining to the east end of the church are several sepulchral monuments; particularly a magnificent tomb of neat workmanship, in free stone. In the front, under a canopy, resembling an alcove bed, are placed two statues as big as the life: The one is said to be an effigy of Sir Patrick Houstoun of that Ilk, who died in the year 1450; and the other of his lady, Annes Campbell, who died in the year 1456. The one representing Sir Patrick is dressed in a coat of mail, his head lying on a pillow, and his feet on a lion with a wide mouth, holding a lamb in his paws under him. The image of the lady is dressed as in grave clothes, neatly cut in stone. Both their hands are elevated, as in a praying or supplicating posture. Round the verge of the tomb there is an inscription in Saxon capitals, but so much effaced, that little of it can be distinctly read.

Upon

Upon the ſouth wall of the aile there is a large frame of timber, on which 2 pictures, ſeemingly done with oil colours, but much worn out. On the right ſide, a man in complete armour, reſembling that of a Knight Templar, with an inſcription in Saxon characters over his head, ſome words of which are effaced.—Hic jacet Dominus Joannes Houſtoun de eodem miles, qui obiit anno Dom. MCCCC°—On the left hand a picture of his lady, alſo much effaced, and over her head the following inſcription:—Hic jacet Domina Maria Colquhoun, ſponſa quondam dicti Domini Joannis, qua obiit ſeptimo die menſis Octobris, an Dom M°CCCC°-quinto.—On the ſame ſide of the aile is a fine monument, with a variety of emblematical figures, part of fine free ſtone, but moſt of it ſtucco. On the top is the image of an old man, with long flowing hair, and a crown on his head, with a looſe robe, having one foot on a large globe, with a ſmall image on each ſide, holding a trumpet to their mouth. Acroſs the globe is a chain hanging down on each ſide, and fixed below; where there are, in a ſtanding poſture, two images reſembling children, each holding a link of the chain: The one on the right hand has three faces; the other, on the left hand, is blindfolded, as with a cloth bound over the eyes. There are ſeveral other figures on the ſides, and below the following inſcription:

Hic ſita eſt Domina Anna Hamiltonia, dilectiſſima Domini Patricii Houſtoun, de eodem, Baronetti, conjux ſua, quae obiit tertio die idus Maias, anno ſalutis partae, mileſimo ſexcenteſimo et ſeptuageſimo-octavo.

There have been ſeveral urns, with aſhes of human bones, found both in Houſtoun and Killallan. One was lately found in the brow of a hill on the road ſide; and others have been

found under cairns of ſmall ſtones These urns were probably Roman urns, this diſtrict being part of a Roman province, and within the line of Antoninus's wall, or Graham's dyke. Dr Henry, in his Hiſtory of Britain, obſerves, that the antient nations of South Britain burnt the bodies of the dead, according to the practice of the antient Gauls, from whom they were deſcended; and that this is unqueſtionably evident from the great number of urns, of Britiſh workmanſhip, which have been found in ſeveral places, full of aſhes, and human bones half burnt; and theſe urns, with their various contents, were depoſited in ſepulchres, caves, and barrows or tumuli, according to the prevailing cuſtom of the country; but, as the bones of men lying at full length, without any marks of burning, have been found in ſome of theſe barrows, it appears, that, on ſome occaſions, the antient Britons of the ſouth, both of Scotland and England, buried their dead without burning, and that the Caledonians always buried their dead in deep graves.

About 20 years ago, when the country people in this pariſh were digging for ſtones to incloſe their farms, they met with ſeveral cheſts or coffins of flag ſtones, ſet on their edges, ſides, and ends, and covered with the ſame ſort of ſtones above, in which were many human bones of a large ſize, and ſeveral ſculls in ſome of them. In one was found many trinkets of a jet black ſubſtance, ſome round, others round and oblong, and others of a diamond ſhape, &c. all perforated. Probably they were a necklace. There was a thin piece, about 2 inches broad at one end, and perforated with many holes, but narrow at the other; the broad end, full of holes, ſeemed to be deſigned for ſuſpending many trinkets, as an ornament on the breaſt. The ground where theſe ſtone coffins were found was a little raiſed, with a mixture

ture of ſmall ſtones and earth, in the form of a barrow or tumulus.

But whether theſe ſtone coffins were older than the Roman government in this country, or later, or upon what occaſion ſo many people were buried there in that manner, and ſeveral in one ſtone cheſt, is not known. It ſeems to have been the conſequence of a battle or ſkirmiſh between two hoſtile parties; which was the caſe not 200 years ago, between families, through moſt part of Scotland, who often met their enemy, with their vaſſals and dependants, and ſlaughtered one another.

About half a mile to the ſouth weſt of Houſtoun manſion-houſe, there is a mount compoſed of a vaſt number of ſmall ſtones, in which was found one of the like ſtone coffins; and, oppoſite to it, directly northward, there is another of the ſame kind, compoſed of earth and ſmall ſtones, in a circular form. They were both lately enlarged, incloſed, and planted with foreſt trees. Theſe two mounts may have been the ground of two oppoſite camps of warriors, fighting near the place where the ſtone coffins were found.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF BIGGAR.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM WATSON.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.

THE parish of Biggar, in the county of Lanark, is the seat of a Presbytery, a branch of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is about 6 miles long from east to west; and 3¼ broad from south to north; the figure being a sort of oval, with some irregularities. The surface is partly hilly, and partly level; in some places heathy, in others green, and interspersed with fertile fields; and is almost equally divided between tillage and pasture.

Rent, &c.—The present rental of the parish may amount to about L. 1800. The best ground about the town lets at 30 s. and some particular spots yield a rent of 40 s. an acre; but, in general, the land in the neighbourhood of Biggar lets at between 20 s and 30 s. an acre, being mostly distributed into several small farms of L. 10 and L. 15 each. In the country part of the parish, some farms let at L. 50, others at L. 70, and one at L. 150 *per annum*; but the rate per acre cannot be easily ascertained, as they consist mostly of some tolerably good low grounds, and a considerable extent of hilly poor land, which is employed for pasture. There has been no great

great alteration of the ſize of farms here theſe many years paſt. The pariſh, in general, is open and uninclоſed, though there are ſeveral incloſures here and there, eſpecially near the town. The number of horſes may be about 125, and of ſheep 100 ſcore. There are about 40 heritors in the pariſh, including portioners of Biggar town; Lord Elphinſtone being the principal proprietor, and Mr Brown of Edmonſtone the only reſident heritor of any conſideration.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—Butcher meat generally ſells at 3 d. 3½ d. or 4 d. a pound; butter 7 d. a pound; hens from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d.; and chickens 4 d. each. The fuel uſed here is coal from Douglas, 11 miles off; 3 loads, or 1 horſe draught, comes to 3 s. 3 d.; but ſome people uſe peats from Biggar moſs, though theſe are difficult to procure, and at the ſame time expenſive. An expert man ſervant, maintained in a farmer's family, will receive from L. 5 : 10 : 0 to L. 6 *per annum*, and a maid ſervant L. 2 : 10 : 0 to L. 3; which is twice as much as they got 40 years ago. A day labourer has 8 d. a day in ſummer, and 6 d. in winter; but, in harveſt, the daily wages of a man are 10 d. and of a woman 8 d. Carpenters earn 1 s. 3 d. a day, and maſons 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.

Population.—Total inhabitants	937
In the town of Biggar	389
In the country part of the pariſh	348
Under 10 years of age	207
From 10 to 20	113
From 20 to 50	416
From 50 to 70	164
Above 70 years of age	37

The

The returns made to Dr Webster about 1750 was 1098 souls; so that the population has declined 161 since that period; though it appears that the population of the town has been for some years past on the increase. In this town there are,

Merchants, or shopkeepers	7
Shoemakers, including journeymen	15
Physician	1
Surgeons, including 4 apprentices	7
Attorney	1
Minister of the Established Church	1
——— Burger Seceders	1
——— Relief Congregation	1

This place stands on a dry and elevated situation, favoured with a southerly exposure, and is allowed to be a healthy and well aired town; no houses are unoccupied; and three new ones have been lately built. There are three fairs held here yearly; one at Candlemas, another in July, and a third in November.

Church and Stipend.—The collegiate church of Biggar was built in 1545, by Malcolm 3d Lord Fleming, Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland, and largely endowed by him for the support of a provost, 8 prebendaries, 4 singing boys, and 6 poor men. It is built in the form of a cross; the fabric is entire; but the steeple and spire have never been finished. It is just now undergoing a reparation, and, when completed, will be a decent place of worship. The stipend is L. 55: 11: 11$\frac{1}{2}$ in money, 3 chalders of oat-meal, and 1 chalder of barley; besides which, the minister has L. 2: 10: 0 allowance for grass, and a glebe of 2 acres and 3 roods, worth yearly about L. 3: 8: 0. Lord Elphinstone is patron.—A Burgher meeting-

ing-houſe was built in the town of Biggar about 1760; and about 1780 a Relief houſe was alſo erected there, the members of which are collected from 16 neighbouring pariſhes.

Poor.—The collections at the church doors, profits of the mort-cloths, &c. amount to L 25 a year, which is diſburſed among about a dozen of ſtated penſioners, and in giving occaſional ſupplies to others. The poor belonging to the ſectaries get ſome kind of ſupply from their own meetings; but, in general, it is very inadequate; ſo that they are ſometimes obliged to be relieved from the pariſh funds. The Burgher and Relief congregations are often in debt. Part of their collections are applied in paying their miniſters ſtipend, keeping their meeting houſes in repair, and paying intereſt of money borrowed.

Roads.—The public roads in this pariſh, and in the county in general, are improving every day. About 30 years ago, the inhabitants wrought at them a certain number of days in the year; while this practice continued, the work was performed with reluctance, and the roads kept in bad repair: But now, each farm pays a certain ſum; and the roads, under the inſpection of truſtees, are well made, and preſerved in excellent repair, proper materials being at hand. There is one turnpike in the pariſh; and the prejudices of the country people againſt turnpikes are diminiſhing, as they now ſee the advantages of good roads, which here enables one horſe to carry from 8 to 10 bars of lead from Leadhills in a cart; whereas 5 or 6 bars were thought a ſufficient load before.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The want of manufactures, and the high price of fuel, occaſions rather an indolent habit among the lower claſſes, in whom a taſte for dreſs ſeems to be

be on the increasing hand; and tea drinking is more common than it was 20 years ago. The most prevalent diseases seem to be slow and intermitting fevers. Nothing singular occurred here in the scarcity of 1782 and 1783. The heritors assessed themselves in a sum of money for purchasing oatmeal, which was sold at a reduced price to such persons as the heritors or kirk session deemed objects of distress.

Antiquities.—At the west end of the town of Biggar is a tumulus, which appears never to have been opened; and there are vestiges of three camps, each of a roundish figure, at different places in the neighbourhood. There is a tradition of a battle having been fought at the east end of the town, between the Scots, under the command of Sir William Wallace, and the English army, who were said to be 60,000 strong, wherein a great slaughter was made on both sides, especially among the latter.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF DUNSYRE.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN BRADFUTE.

Origin of the Name.

DUNSIR, or Dunſior, in the Celtic, ſignifies the Long Hill; thence it appears that a remarkable hill, called Dunſyre, near the ſmall village where the church ſtands, has given name to that village, and conſequently to the pariſh.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—This pariſh lies at the eaſtern extremity of the county of Lanark, in the preſbytery of Biggar, and ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The arable land lies between the hill of Dunſyre and the range of Dolphington and Walſton hills to the ſouth, which are about a mile diſtant from the former. Between them is a flat vale, extending near three miles in length, through the middle of which the ſmall river Medwin (the ſouthern boundary of the pariſh) runs in a winding direction. The houſes are placed between the Medwin and the hill of Dunſyre, and on riſing grounds, at the weſt extremity of the flat lands, many of them in ſituations improper for the farms. The reſt of the pariſh is ſheep paſture, ſtretching to the north; ſo that, though the houſes are nearly in a line from eaſt to weſt, the

extent of the parish is about five miles every way; and it is bounded by the parishes of Carnwath, West Calder, Linton, Dolphington, Walston, and Libberton.

Climate and Diseases.—This parish is placed very high, being about 700 feet above the level of the east and west seas, from which Dunsyre is almost equi-distant; so that the Medwin being divided by a mill dam at the east end of the parish, one half of the stream runs to the Clyde, and the other half to the Tweed. The air is pretty good, though rather moist. The prevalent distempers are rheumatism, and nervous disorders; the last, it is imagined, are partly owing to the want of circulation of air in the houses, the windows of which formerly had moveable timber leaves below, and glass above, now the windows are sashed, and scarcely any of them can be opened.

Population.—On the 1st of January 1791, there were in the parish,

Males	183
Females	177
Individuals	360
Of whom there were,	
Under 10 years of age	88
From 10 to 20	80
—— 20 to 30	60
—— 30 to 40	37
—— 40 to 50	42
—— 50 to 60	20
—— 60 to 70	14
—— 70 to 80	12
—— 80 to 90	7
	360

By

By the returns made to Dr Webſter about 1750, there were 359 inhabitants then in the pariſh, ſo that it appears the population has made little or no progreſs in 40 years, though it is ſaid that, about 1783, the number of inhabitants was about 400, the decreaſe ſince that period being owing to the enlargement of farms, and pulling down of cottages. All the pariſhioners, except about 40 ſectaries of various denominations, are of the eſtabliſhed church; and, from the regiſters, it appears there were 14 baptiſed, and 9 buried, between 1ſt January 1788 and 1ſt January 1791. There are in the pariſh three heritors, none of whom reſide, one clergyman, twelve farmers, two ſtudents, a few weavers, ſmiths, maſons, wrights, and taylors, who have about half a dozen apprentices.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The annual value of the living is L. 100, excluſive of the manſe and glebe, which laſt may be worth L. 10 a year. The King is patron, and the parſon is titular of the tythes. The manſe was built in 1756. The kirk is old, but in tolerable repair. The number of poor receiving charity are 7 or 8, ſupplied by the collections, and the intereſt of a ſmall fund of L. 90.

Natural Productions, &c.—In general, there is not much wood in the pariſh; it is chiefly fir, aſh, and a few limes. Some oats are ſent to the Glaſgow market, as are alſo ſheep, and turnip fed cattle. The artificial graſſes are clover, rye-graſs, and a little rib-graſs; the times of ſowing and reaping are various. In good ſeaſons, the harveſt here is three, in a wet year ſix, weeks later than in Mid or Eaſt Lothian. Dunſyre Hill is rocky and green. The other riſing grounds in the pariſh are covered with black heath. Peat is produced in the pariſh; but there is no coal nearer than twelve miles.

The

The land rent in 1735 was L. 500; it may perhaps be now nearly doubled; and the parish is divided into twelve farms, one of which is wholly sheep pasture. The day-wages of a mason and carpenter are 1 s. 6 d. each; of a taylor 1 s.; of a day-labourer 1 s.; ploughmen get from L. 6 to L. 7, and women servants from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*. The people are sober, economical, and industrious. The servants are well fed and treated; and, in seed time and harvest, none in Scotland can be more alert. The Medwin produces a few trouts.

Antiquities.—There is a row of sepulchral cairns running from the east end of this parish upon the edge of a muir towards Linton. Two of them the present incumbent has seen opened; in one the body had been buried in a large coffin of several unwrought freestones, in the other was found a small urn.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The soil in the parish, and in all that tract of country which stretches from hence to Lanark is in general light and sandy; the arable land being frequently interspersed with, or bordering on, peat-moss. The soil is well adapted for raising turnips and potatoes, though it is only of late that the culture of the former has been introduced. In general, this tract is still unincloſed. Inclosures, with belts and clumps of planting, would much improve the parish, by sheltering the grounds, and meliorating the climate. It is a question of importance how these fences could be made at the cheapest rate. Thorn-hedges are impracticable here, as the soil has many variations from good to bad, where thorns cannot be reared. Stones are not every where to be got; and, besides, the poverty of the ground will hardly bear the expence of erecting stone-walls. Perhaps turf-dykes, well

well coped, is the only mode that can be adopted; theſe will ſtand to rear a verge of fir-trees until they are pretty much out of danger from being deſtroyed by cattle; and, if the outer-row of the belts were planted thick with larch, which is a hardy ſort of wood, this of itſelf would be a good fence, and ſupply the place of the turf dykes when they begin to fail. Upon the whole, nothing can be done effectually for the improvement of this country without draining and ſcreening. Perhaps the rents might be thus raiſed one-third in twenty years time. The gentlemen of this part of the country ſeem to have no idea of building villages, though, as fuel is plenty, they might be ſoon peopled.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF YESTER.

By the Rev. Mr JAMES INNES.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE antient name of this parish was Bothons, when the seat of the family of Tweeddale was at the old castle, about a mile from their present residence; but, after the Reformation, the family left the castle, and began to build the house they now inhabit, which they then called Yester, and the parish has ever since gone by the same name. This parish is situated in the county of East Lothian, presbytery of Haddington, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, being bounded by the parishes of Haddington on the north, Garvald on the east, Lauder on the south, and Bolton on the west. It extends about two miles in breadth, and three in length, without reckoning that portion which makes part of Lammer-moor, and extends two miles further to the southward. From the foot of Lammer-law, to the northern boundary of the parish, the country has a very gentle descent; and from east to west it is mostly plain; Lammer-moor is covered with heath.

Soil and Climate.—The soil is very different; in the same farm, we have rich good land and very poor ground intermixed together; but, by means of lime and dung, the great-

est

eſt part of the pariſh has been brought into very good order. Some of the beſt ground is near the foot of Lammer-moor hills; the moſt of the arable land is rather a ſhallow than a deep ſoil. The air is pure and very healthy; and no particular diſtemper is prevalent in the pariſh; though it has been obſerved that, of late years, conſumptions have been more frequent than uſual in this part of the country.

Natural Productions.—The hill ground is about two miles ſquare, and the number of acres of arable land is about 4000, of which near 2000 acres are employed in raiſing corn and roots, and in fallow. There are ſown about 200 bolls of wheat, 1100 bolls of oats, 200 bolls of barley, 180 bolls of peaſe, 120 acres of turnips, 100 acres of potatoes, from 15 to 20 acres of flax; but this laſt is not much cultivated here, the ground not being fit for it. There are often 180 acres of fallow, which is ſown down with wheat and barley. Much more grain is raiſed than the people can conſume: Much is ſold in Haddington market; and a conſiderable quantity goes yearly to the weſt country. More than one-half of the ground in the pariſh is in paſture and ſown graſs; about 200 acres are covered with wood, ſuch as elm, oak, beech, and fir; among which are ſome of the largeſt and moſt beautiful trees in Scotland. One oak-tree in the wood of Yeſter was valued ſome years ago at L. 25. A good number of ſheep, and, of late years, a number of calves are bred in the pariſh. Some tenants rear in one year about 20 calves each. There may be, of ſaddle and work-horſes, about 200, black cattle about 600, and 140 ſcore of ſheep. The uſual time of ſowing is the beginning of March, and of reaping the beginning of September.

Prices of Proviſions.—Beef ſells at Martinmas for 3 d. and in ſpring at 4 d. a pound, and mutton bears much the ſame

same price; veal sells from 4 d. to 6 d. a pound, according to the season; lamb from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. a quarter; pork, in general, 4 d. a pound; geese 3 s. each; ducks 1 s.; chickens 5 d. to 6 d. a pound each; butter 8 d. to 9 d. and cheese 5 d. to 6 d. a pound. The price of oat-meal 40 years ago was 7 d. the peck, at present it is 1 s. A greater quantity of beef and mutton are now consumed by the lower class of people than formerly. The fuel commonly used is coal and wood; the former comes from six miles distance; one cart, holding six loads, costs 2 s. at the hill, and the carriage comes to 3 s. more.

Prices of Labour.—The wages of an ordinary man-servant 40 years ago were L. 2 : 10 : 0 yearly; at present they are from L. 5 to L. 7. Women servants then received L. 1 : 10 : 0, all articles included; now they have, on an average, L. 3 a year. Forty years ago, the wages of a labouring man, who received no victuals, were 5 d. through the winter, and 6 d. in summer; now they are raised to 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in summer; in harvest, the reapers get from 9 d. to 1 s. 4 d. with their meat. A carpenter makes 1s. 6d.; a mason 1s. 8d.; and taylors have from 6 d. to 8 d. a day, with their meat. The common labourer, when well employed, may gain from L. 15 to L. 18 a year, which makes him and his family live very comfortably; and a common ploughman may earn, including meal, corn, and cow, &c. from L. 13 to L. 15 a year.

Rent of Land and Houses, &c.—The land rent of the whole parish amounts to about L. 2000 *per annum*. A common cottage lets at about 13 s. or L. 1 *per annum*; if the house consists of two or more apartments, the rent is L. 1. for each apartment, when occupied separately. There are about 150 inhabited houses in the parish, each of which contains 5 souls

ſouls on an average. The village of Gifford contains about 400 people, moſtly ſmall fuers; the other villages are but trifling. There are about 60 ploughs in the pariſh, which are drawn by 2 horſes each; about 65 carts, ſome drawn by 2 horſes, and ſome by 1 horſe; no waggons; 1 coach; 3 four-wheeled, and 3 two-wheeled carriages.

Population.—About 1750, the returns from hence to Dr Webſter was 1091: At preſent there are about 800, from 5 years of age to 90; the number of males and females being nearly equal; the latter rather preponderating. The births, on an average, are about 25, deaths about 15, and marriages about 8, every year. The pariſh was much more populous 100 years ago than it is now; the cauſes of the decreaſe muſt be attributed to the demolition of cottages, and the union of ſeveral ſmall farms into one; but the population has rather increaſed ſince the preſent Marquis of Tweeddale came to reſide at Yeſter. There are about 5 children on an average in a family: The children, in general, are not ſo ſtout as they were 40 years ago; which muſt be owing, in a great meaſure, to the different manner of living; as the common people now drink a great deal of tea, and not good ſmall beer, which they did 50 years ago.

In the pariſh are 5 heritors, all of whom reſide either conſtantly, or occaſionally; 1 clergyman; 1 phyſician; 1 ſtudent of divinity; 18 farmers; a good many carpenters, maſons, and weavers, who have all plenty of work through the ſeaſon, and live very comfortably; 18 male, and 22 female houſehold ſervants; 30 female, and 80 male labouring ſervants, moſt of which laſt are married, and have families. There is not one lawyer or attorney in the whole pariſh; and the people make it their ſtudy to keep their affairs as much

out of the hands of ſuch men as poſſible, referring all their differences to be determined by the arbitration of neighbours. All the inhabitants are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 10 Seceders.

Church and Stipend.—The church and manſe were built in 1708. The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 100 a year, with a good manſe and garden. The Marquis of Tweeddale is patron.

Poor.—The number of poor in this pariſh are from 28 to 32, each of whom receive from 20 s. to L. 3 yearly. The collections at the church doors amount to about L. 18; the profits of the mort-cloths, and other caſualties, from L. 10 to L. 12 a year; 13 acres of land belonging to the pariſh yield an annual rent of L. 11; and a mortification of L. 100 by the late Marchioneſs of Tweeddale L. 5; ſo that from L. 40 to L. 45 is diſtributed among the poor yearly. About 1750, there appears to have been much the ſame number of poor on the liſt, who received about L. 28 *per annum*. All the poor are ſupported in their own houſes, as in that caſe they are much happier, and do much more work, than if crowded together in work-houſes. There is a Diſpenſary for diſtributing medicines, and giving medical advice to the poor, *gratis*; which inſtitution is of great benefit to the country.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is in the pariſh a ſmall river called Gifford Water, in which are ſome very fine trout: This ſtream was remarkable for a flood on the 4th of October 1775, which carried down moſt of the bridges in the pariſh, and a number of trees from Yeſter; a moſt unaccountable circumſtance, as no extraordinary quantity of rain had previouſly fallen. The people are in general very induſtrious,

trious, having plenty of all kinds of labour. Their ſize varies from 5 feet 5 inches to 6 feet 2 inches. There are no manufactures in the pariſh except a bleachfield, which employs about 15 hands in the ſummer. The ſcarcity in 1782 had no particular effect on the pariſh. The heritors then bought meal at the market price, and ſold it for 2 d. or 3 d. the peck lower to ſuch as were on the poor's liſt, or had ſmall families.

Eminent Men.—This pariſh has given birth to two eminent living characters, Dr John Witherſpoon Preſident of the College of New Jerſey, and Dr Charles Niſbet Preſident of the College of Carliſle, in America.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF BATHGATE.

By the Rev. Mr WALTER JARDINE.

Situation, &c.

THIS parish lies in the county and Presbytery of Linlithgow, and makes part of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is 7 miles long, from east to west, and 2 miles broad, from north to south; being bounded by the parishes of Torphichen, Linlithgow, Ecclesmachen, Uphall, Livingstone, Whiteburn, and Shotts. Towards the north-east, the parish is high and hilly: Bathgate hills, which are covered with green, are a continuation of Cuckold Roy and Cairn Naple in the parish of Linlithgow, and are some of the highest grounds in this part of the country. Towards the south-east, south, and west, this district is flat, and almost level.

Soil.—About the foot of Bathgate hills, the soil is good, and tolerably dry; on the south and west sides of the town of Bathgate, which stands on a steep slope, the ground is bleak and wettish, but not unhealthy; nor are there any particular diseases to which the people are liable. The soil, in general, is pretty deep; and neither so fertile as the country lying eastward, nor so barren as that lying to the west and south.

Minerals.

Minerals.—A conſiderable quantity of free-ſtone, of various quality, is dug from open quarries in the pariſh. A lime-ſtone rock, thirty feet deep, the property of the Earl of Hope-toun, Mr Marjoribanks, and Mr Paterſon Shairp, affords excellent lime; 20 hands are uſually employed in the quarry, and burning lime. Several kinds of ſpar, and ſhells of various ſorts, are ſometimes met with in it. A ſmall vein of ſilver ore was found in this rock a few years ago, but it was too inconſiderable to bear the expence of working. A large field of iron-ſtone, of a ſuperior quality, was lately wrought by the Carron Company in the lands of Barbachlaw, in this pariſh. There is abundance of coal in ſeveral parts of this diſtrict. In one of Lord Hopetoun's collieries near Bathgate, there are ſeven different ſeams of coal, from ſeven inches to ſeven feet thick; the deepeſt ſeam, at preſent, is 40 fathom deep. In this work 20 coal miners are conſtantly employed; each of whom works from 15 to 25 loads a day. The load is 12 Linlithgow pecks, and ſells on the hill at 6 d. the great, and 4 d. the ſmall coal. The whole number ſupported by this colliery, including miners, bearers, &c. is 95; of whom 30 are children incapable of working. There is, beſides, an inexhauſtible quantity of moſs in the pariſh; ſo that many of the farmers and cottagers burn peat, at leaſt in part. The great increaſe of the village of Bathgate ſince 1750 has been chiefly owing to the collieries; to which cauſe, alſo, muſt be attributed the great influx of poor into this town and neighbourhood.

Agriculture, &c.—Oats, barley, peaſe, beans, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, flax, and ſometimes carrots, are the chief produce of the pariſh. Nearly about two-thirds of the 1200 or 1300 acres of arable land in the pariſh are ſown with oats; the reſt moſtly with barley, peaſe, beans, and potatoes; wheat, turnips,

turnips, &c. are only in small quantities. The barley harveſt, in ordinary years, begins about the latter end of Auguſt, or beginning of September; and the peaſe, beans, and oats, immediately follow; the produce being generally ſix for one. There may be between 400 and 500 acres of hay from ſown graſs, as alſo conſiderable pieces of natural meadow in the pariſh; the laſt is generally cut about the beginning of Auguſt, and the former early in July. Moſt kinds of trees which uſually grow in Scotland are to be found here; ſuch as the aſh, elm, beech, oak, and the different ſorts of firs. In the pariſh are about 320 milch cows, 700 young and old black cattle, 250 horſes fit for labour, about 60 more from 1 to 3 years old, and not above 200 ſheep.

Rent of Land.—There are 68 ploughgates in the pariſh. Many of the farms are let at between 10 s. and 15 s. an acre; ſome at 20 s.; and ſeveral ſmall incloſures of 10 or 12 acres are let, on leaſes of 19 years, at 50 s. and 55 s. an acre. The number of farms have diminiſhed of late, two or three being ſometimes let to one perſon, or kept in the proprietor's own hands. Hence, in ſome places, there is not a ſixth part of the inhabitants there were 20 years ago. A conſiderable portion of the pariſh is incloſed; and ſeveral eſtates have changed their proprietors within the laſt 20 years. The price of land is from 20 to 25 years purchaſe of the free rent.

Prices of Proviſions.—The preſent price of beef, mutton, lamb, and pork, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. a pound, Dutch weight; the two former often riſe to 4 d. per lb. and the laſt is but juſt beginning to come into general uſe in this part of the country. A ſucking pig is uſually ſold for as many ſhillings as it is weeks old. Hens and ducks coſt from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; chickens 6 d. to 8 d.; and geeſe 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. each; cheeſe ſells from

4 s.

4s. to 4s. 6d. a ſtone; and butter from 8d. to 10d. a pound: Theſe latter articles, ſuch as hens, &c. are nearly double; and beef and mutton at leaſt a third dearer than they were 30 or 40 years ago. Excepting mutton and lamb, the pariſh is abundantly able to ſupply itſelf with proviſions; and there is uſually a conſiderable quantity of beef, barley, butter, and cheeſe, ſent out of it. At Bathgate, there is a regular fleſh-market twice a week.

Prices of Labour.—Day labourers wages are 1s. a day; maſons, carpenters, and bricklayers from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; taylors, when they work out of their own houſes, 8d. and victuals. A man who can hold the plough well, and mow, &c. will receive L. 8, or perhaps L. 9; and the ordinary wages of men ſervants for threſhing, carting, &c. is about L. 7 a year. They uſually have their victuals in the houſe, or, inſtead of them, two pecks of oat-meal, and 6d. for kitchen * weekly. The female ſervants for huſbandry have generally L. 3 for their yearly wages; and it is the common practice, with very few exceptions, to hire ſervants by the half year. The domeſtic and farm ſervants in gentlemens families have, perhaps, from L. 1 to L. 2 a year more than thoſe employed by farmers. The farmers, in general, keep no domeſtic ſervants, except, perhaps, ſometimes one woman in harveſt, employing their children in the buſineſs of the farm, both within and without doors.

Implements of Huſbandry.—The plough univerſally uſed, till within the laſt two or three years, was the old Scottiſh plough, drawn by 4, 6, and ſometimes 8 cattle; 2 of which, when there were 6, and often 4, when there were 8, were oxen.

* See this word explained in a former note, page 218.

oxen. Small's chain plough, drawn by 2 horses and 2 oxen, or by 2 horses, or by 2 oxen alone, is now beginning to be used; and, where it is drawn only by 2, there is seldom any driver. There are no waggons; and only 2 four-wheeled chaises in the parish.

Population.—The population has advanced considerably within these 40 years. The returns to Dr Webster, about 1750, were 1594 inhabitants; at present they are 2309, 984 males, and 1325 females; making an increase, since that period, of above 700. About 1400 people reside in the village of Bathgate, and 900 in the country part of the parish; in the former are 327 married couples, and 113 unmarried persons who keep house; and in the latter are 122 married couples. In the 20 years preceding January 1790, it appears there were 1142 baptised, and 771 buried; and for 10 years preceding January 1734, there were 415 baptised; making an annual average of 41$\frac{1}{2}$ births in the latter case, and, in the former, of 57$\frac{1}{10}$ births, and 38$\frac{11}{20}$ deaths. There are about 21 marriages every year, and each marriage may produce about 5 children. Of the 2309 inhabitants, 1989 attend the Established Church; about 320 are Seceders; and 3 are of the Episcopal persuasion. In the parish are 27 heritors, 10 of whom reside; 2 clergymen, (the established minister, and the pastor of a Burgher congregation); 4 surgeons; 3 writers; about 12 years ago there was only 1 writer, and he had less business than any one of the three now has; 7 merchants or shopkeepers; 2 students of divinity, and 1 of medicine; 255 mechanics, of whom 50 are apprentices; 55 farmers, in each of whose families there are, at an average, 9 or 10 persons, of whom 3 are generally hired servants.

Ecclesiastical State.—The value of the living is worth, *communibus*

mumibus annis, L. 110 or L. 112, including the glebe and 4 chalders of victual. The church was built in 1739; the manſe is an old building, frequently wanting repairs. The Earl of Hopetoun is patron.

Poor.—The number of poor who receive alms from the pariſh is 48, which is a much ſmaller number than uſual. The funds that ſupport them ariſe from the collections at the church doors, fees for proclamation of banns, and for the mort-cloths; and from a general aſſeſſment of the pariſh, which, ever ſince 1783, has been nearly, and ſome years conſiderably above, L. 100 *per annum*, owing to the conſequences of the ſcarcity in 1782, as will be immediately mentioned.

Famine in 1782.—In the year 1782, the ſcarcity of grain was ſo great, that oat-meal ſold for no leſs than L. 2 : 2 : 0 the load (16 ſtone). Not only the ordinary poor, but the families of many labourers who were before decently ſupported, muſt have periſhed for want, without extraordinary aſſiſtance. Notwithſtanding all that was done for them, many of them accumulated ſo much debt, that, in 1783, they were in little leſs diſtreſs than in 1782. That public calamity was followed by ſeveral important conſequences to this pariſh. Many were then admitted upon the poor's liſt, who before that period ſupported themſelves, but ever afterwards they have needed aſſiſtance. For the immediate relief of the poor, the parochial fund, amounting to about L. 200, was ſpent in buying meal, which was given to ſome, and ſold at a low price to others. In conſequence of the increaſed number of neceſſitous perſons, and the want of the intereſt of the L. 200, a heavy annual aſſeſſment was laid on the pariſh; and, ſince this took place, the collections at the church door do not

amount to a third of their former usual sum. For eleven years preceding December 1783, the average of the disbursements for the support of the poor, not including the interest of the L. 200 above mentioned, was L. 51 *per annum*; but for six years following that period, the annual sum disbursed amounted, on an average, to above L. 137.

Village of Bathgate.—In the village of Bathgate are about 469 houses, or rooms, occupied by separate families, whereof 29 are uninhabited. The total rental of the town, gardens, and some small pieces of ground, amounts to L. 619: 14: 0 *per annum*; and the mean rent of a house or room comes to 20 s. a year. Bathgate was part of the extensive possessions given in 1316 by King Robert Bruce, as the dowry of his daughter Lady Margery, to Walter, High Steward of Scotland, who had one of his principal residences at this place, where he died in 1328: Some traces of his mansion may yet be seen in the middle of a morass or loch about a quarter of a mile distant from the town; and several causeways leading to it still remain. Hewn stones have been frequently dug from the foundation of it, as also some kitchen utensils of copper or brass; and several coffins of flag stones, in some of which were copper coins, have lately been ploughed up in the adjacent grounds.

Food, and Expences of Labourers.—The common people here subsist on oat meal, pease meal, barley, potatoes, milk, chiefly butter milk, greens, a little butter and cheese, sometimes the offals of beef, mutton, lamb, or veal, or a small piece of beef, and, on a particular occasion, a leg of lamb or veal. For three quarters of the year, potatoes constitute nearly two-thirds of the food of a labouring man's family. It is not easy to state the expence of such a family; but it is a fact not to be

be diſputed, that upon 5 s. a week, (for until very lately they had no higher wages), and what the wife could earn, which, at an average, could not be above 2 s. a week, many of them have brought up families decently. They have not only provided food and raiment for themſelves and 3, 4, or 5 children, but have paid for teaching their ſons to read, write, and ſometimes arithmetic, and their daughters to read, and often to ſew and write.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The pariſh, in general, has many, perhaps more advantages within itſelf than moſt other pariſhes, and the people are in general induſtrious, oeconomical, happy, and contented with their ſituation: But ſtill much might be done to better their circumſtances, were ſuch branches of manufacture as the place is calculated for, eſtabliſhed and carried on by perſons of experience, ability, and ſpirit. The only manufactures at preſent are a brick and tile work, and a tannery, all on a ſmall ſcale; beſide a tallow chandler who carries on a pretty conſiderable trade. About 20 hands are employed in theſe branches.

Alterations in the Manner of Living.—A great alteration in the manner of living has taken place in this pariſh within the laſt 40 years. About 1750, there were not above 10 families who uſed tea, and now, perhaps, there is not above twice that number who do not uſe it. Butcher meat was then not more uſed than tea: Scarcely any cattle or ſheep were killed, except at Martinmas, when ſome families uſed to ſalt a whole, or others only a part of an ox or cow, to ſerve for winter proviſion *; but now there is a regular fleſh market twice a week, and almoſt every family, who can afford it, eats fleſh conſtantly. A much greater quantity of wheaten bread is now

* This practice is ſometimes ſtill continued.

now conſumed in the pariſh in a month, than was in a twelve-month forty years ago. The alteration in dreſs ſince 1750 is alſo remarkable. When the good man and his ſons went to kirk, market, wedding, or burial, they were clothed in a home ſpun ſuit of freezed cloth, called *kelt*, pladden hoſe, with a blue or brown bonnet; and the good wife and her daughters were dreſſed in gowns and petticoats of their own ſpinning, with a cloth cloak and hood of the ſame, or a tartan or red plaid. But now, the former, when they go abroad, wear ſuits of Engliſh cloth, good hats, &c.; and the latter the fineſt printed cottons, and ſometimes ſilk gowns, ſilk caps, and bonnets, of different ſhapes, ſizes, and colours, white ſtockings, cloth ſhoes, &c.

Roads.—The turnpike road leading from the iron works at Cleugh to Borrowſtounneſs runs through the pariſh, as alſo a branch from the great road between Edinburgh and Glaſgow by Whitburn. Conſidering the great number of coal and lime carts daily on them, the roads are in pretty good order. They were originally made, as well as kept in repair, moſtly by the ſtatute labour, which is ſometimes commuted, but chiefly exacted in kind, at the diſcretion of the overſeer. Each ploughgate of land is obliged to work at the rate, or pay 12 s. *per annum*; and the village of Bathgate pays a conſiderable ſum for repairing the roads, though the ſtreets of the town are in very bad order.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF STRANRAER.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN COULTER.

Situation, and Deſcription of the Town and Loch.

STRANRAER, a royal borough, and the ſeat of a preſbytery of the ſame name. It is governed by a provoſt, two bailies, a dean-of-guild, and fifteen counſellors, and is the chief town of that diſtrict of Wigtonſhire, called the Rhyns, comprehending the maritime pariſhes of Kirkmaiden, Stonykirk, Inch, Glenluce, Stranraer, Port Patrick, Lochſwalt, Kirkholm, and the moorland pariſh of Newluce. The town of Stranraer is ſituated at the head of Lochryan. As to the origin of the name, little but conjecture can be advanced; yet, as all this country was comprehended in the antient kingdom of Galloway, and inhabited by a tribe of Celts, it is probably of Gaelic origin. Lochryan, on which the town ſtands, is a moſt beautiful, as well as a ſafe and commodious bay. It is about 10 Engliſh miles long from north by weſt to ſouth by eaſt; the entrance into it is nearly two miles broad; it is bounded on the eaſt by the pariſh of Ballantrae, in Airſhire; and on the weſt by Millar Point, a headland, or promontory, in the pariſh of Kirkholm. About three or four miles from the mouth of the loch, on the eaſt ſide, is the little village of Cairn, belonging to Mr Dunlop of Dunlop.

Dunlop. Contiguous to this village is a very safe and commodious bay, with good anchoring ground, and depth of water sufficient for ships of any burden; and all vessels entering into, or coming out of the Frith of Clyde fly to it for shelter from storms. King William's fleet anchored here in their passage to Ireland. Opposite to the village of Cairn, in the Kirkholm side, a sand bank, called the Scar, runs a considerable way cross the loch from N. W. to S. E. To prevent their running foul of this bank, vessels keep pretty near the east shore. Few accidents have ever happened on this bank. It even contributes considerably to the safety of the southern part of the bay, breaking the force of the tide by the direction in which it lies. This bank abounds with oysters of a most excellent flavour. They are found indeed all round the shores, and might be got in great quantities would people drag for them. At present they are only gathered at low water, in spring tides, for a few months in the spring. Loch-ryan immediately spreads out, on both sides, into a very beautiful circular figure, extending about four miles in breadth. Besides the Cairn Bay, there are several other good anchoring bays in the loch; such as Portmore Bay, a little within the loch on the west side; the Wig, just on the west side of the Scar; the Bay of Soleburn, at the mouth of a little rivulet of the same name, about two miles south of the Scar; and the Bay of Dalmennock on the east side, about two miles above the Cairn. In short, the anchoring ground is good, and safe every where through the whole loch. A variety of fish, as skate, flounders, small cod, haddocks, whitings, lobsters and crabs, and sometimes turbot, are caught within the loch. Between the mouth of the loch and the Rock of Ailsa, and to the west of Millar Point, along the shores of Kirkholm, the cods and haddocks are larger, and of a most excellent quality. But these fishing grounds, lying at 12 or 15 miles from the

the town, can only be reſorted to in calm ſettled weather; hence the inhabitants are not ſo well, or ſo regularly ſupplied with fiſh, as might be expected from the ſituation of the town. The herring fiſhery ſhall be mentioned afterwards. Stranraer has no artificial harbour. Ships of 300 tons burden can come to what is called the Road, about half a mile from the town. Veſſels of 60, even of 100 tons, frequently anchor cloſe by the houſes. At high ſpring tides the water riſes at the town 10 feet perpendicularly, and retires along a gently declining, ſmooth, ſandy beach, to about a quarter of a mile's diſtance. The anchorage is good and ſafe every where. A ſtrong N. or N. W. wind, accompanied with a high tide, are the only circumſtances that can, in the leaſt degree, endanger veſſels anchoring in the road, or near the town. The town is divided, nearly in the middle, by a little rivulet, over which there are ſeveral ſtone bridges. The caſtle, now uninhabited, is a whin-ſtone building, with free-ſtone corners and windows, of conſiderable height, and ſtill very ſubſtantial. The handſome town-houſe and priſon, built about eighteen years ago, with the many new houſes built within the ſame time, and well finiſhed, add greatly to the beauty of the ſtreets. New houſes, finiſhed in a ſtyle that would not diſgrace even ſome of our richer and more populous towns, are riſing every year, and demonſtrate the increaſing opulence and taſte of the inhabitants. The ſituation of the town is eſteemed very healthy; and the good health commonly enjoyed by the inhabitants fully juſtifies this opinion. The water, though drawn from wells, is good; the air pure, and free from fogs; the winters generally mild, except when the wind blows from the N. or N. W. The laborious part of the inhabitants, expoſed to the ſeverity of many a winter's ſtorm, to rain and ſnow, while following their occupations at ſea, have ſometimes too much reaſon to complain of rheumatic

matic pains. The progress and ravages of the small pox have been much checked by inoculation, which is frequently practised both in the town and in the country. Many of the inhabitants have reached the age of eighty and ninety years and upwards.

Trade and Fisheries.—In the year 1764 there were only two vessels belonging to the town, of 30 or 35 tons each; but now the tonnage of the port is about 1200 tons, composed of vessels from 15 or 20 to 100 tons each; there is one of upwards of 150 tons. This shipping is generally employed in the different branches of the coasting trade, and in the herring fishery. This last branch of trade was pushed with great success for many years by the inhabitants of Stranraer; but, for the last seven or eight years, they have been greatly discouraged by want of success. Last season, only six or seven vessels went to the Highland fishery, and returned with very poor cargoes; some with only 3 or 4 barrels; and none with more than a quarter cargo: Formerly 16 or 17 vessels have gone out and returned full laden. Besides the coasting trade and fishery, some of the largest vessels have lately gone annually to Norway, Gottenburgh, and the Baltic, either on freight, or on account of their owners here. Considerable quantities of deals, planks, large timber, and iron have been imported. These articles are disposed of in the country and town for building, &c.; a great part of them is employed in ship-building. The herring fishery in Lochryan was formerly very considerable: Boats and busses flocked thither in great numbers from every quarter, the inhabitants of every description found employment, and wealth poured in upon them. The fishery is now much decreased. The herrings make their appearance generally some time in September, continue two or three months, appearing and disappearing

ing at intervals. They yield a ſcanty and temporary ſupply to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. What is caught anſwers preſent demand, but could not be offered to ſale in any foreign market.

Stranraer, being the chief town of the diſtrict, is reſorted to by the inhabitants of the neighbouring pariſhes for ſuch neceſſaries and comforts of life, as their farms cannot furniſh, their fancies may demand, or their purſes afford. There are, however, too many retailers of whiſky, both licenſed and unlicenſed The effects of it are the ſame here as every where elſe, viz. idleneſs, and the ruin of the health and morals of the lower ſort of people. 24,426 gallons of whiſky, and other Britiſh ſpirits, were imported into this place in the courſe of the year 1790; and it has been aſſerted as a fact, that, in the courſe of the ſame year, near L. 5000 Sterling was drawn from this town and the neighbouring pariſhes for whiſky alone. The health and morals of the people, and the population of the country, all of which are hurt by the pernicious habit of dram-drinking, are of infinitely more importance to a ſtate than the produce of the tax.

The ſpirit of improvement, altho' only lately introduced into this country, advances rapidly. About 60,000 Carliſle buſhels of lime (each buſhel containing three Winchester buſhels), were imported into this diſtrict laſt year from Larne and Whitehaven; for there is no limeſtone in the country. The quantity commonly laid on an acre is 55 or 60 Carliſle buſhels; the price at the ſhore 13, 14, or 15 pence a buſhel; hence weighty crops of barley, oats, rye-graſs, and clover, are raiſed, where, not many years ago, weak grey oats could ſcarcely be ſeen. Some judgment of the ſtate of agriculture in this di-

ſtrict may be formed from the annexed Table of the Exports of grain for ſeven years preceding January 1791.

	Quarters.
Grain ſent coaſtwiſe in the year 1784	7880
1785	5154
1786	2766
1787	4382
1788	8515
1789	4541
1790	7743
	40981

This makes an average of 5854 quarters, annually exported, or carried coaſtwiſe. What is entered for exportation at Port Patrick is not included in the above abſtract. Potatoes are cultivated to a great extent through the whole diſtrict. Above 100 tons of them have been exported ſince the commencement of this year. They form a very great and important article of food, eſpecially to the poor ſort of inhabitants; 6 d. or 7 d. per buſhel is an average price for exportation.

Tanning is a conſiderable trade here. There are two annual fairs in the pariſh; one in the beginning of May, the other in the beginning of September. While a friendly connection ſubſiſted between Great Britain and America, great quantities of Galloway plaiding (a courſe fabric, fitted for the Virginia market) was ſold at the laſt of theſe fairs. This was the ſtaple manufacture here; and it brought into the country near L. 3000 annually. But the demand for this article ceaſing at the commencement of hoſtilities, the trade was abandoned. To it has ſucceeded the raiſing of flax in greater quantities than formerly, and working it up into courſe linens.

It

It is brought to market, both green and bleached, and is bought up chiefly by merchants from Glaſgow and Kilmarnock. The ſubjoined table, taken from the ſtamp-maſter's books, ſhews the ſtate of this manufacture for the laſt three years.

	Yards.	Value.
Linen-cloth ſtamped in 1788,	28391,	L. 1268 14 10
Ditto 1789,	28662,	1276 14 0
Ditto . . . 1790,	26991,	1181 8 3

No unfavourable concluſion muſt be drawn from the ſtate of laſt year, as if the manufacture were declining. For one of the manufacturers, who is well known to have ſtamped a conſiderable quantity of linen, being from home, the amount of his produce is omitted in the account for 1790.

The farmers generally export their corn, which produces very ſerious conſequences to the inhabitants, as they are obliged to purchaſe meal at the diſcretionary price of the ſeller. To remedy this ſore evil, about twenty years ago, a number of mechanics, countenanced by many of the more reſpectable and wealthy inhabitants, formed themſelves into an aſſociation, whoſe object was to purchaſe meal, to be diſtributed weekly to the ſubſcribers only. Each ſubſcriber, at his entry, originally paid five ſhillings, (now ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence), and thirteen pence a year. It is governed by a deacon, as he is called, and twelve aſſeſſors, choſen annually. This inſtitution has produced very good effects. The ſubſcribers, and the poor in general, are regularly ſupplied at a price rather below the rate of the country. Their ſtock is now about L. 140 Sterling.

Fuel.—Scarcity of fuel is one of the greateſt inconveniencies which

which Stranraer labours under. The chief fuel is peat and turf, brought from the diſtance of 3 or 4 miles; often of a bad quality, and always high priced. Many of the inhabitants burn coals in their rooms. Theſe are brought from Air or Irvine by ſea, and coſt the purchaſer about fourteen pence the herring-barrel, including the price of leading from the ſhore. A family, keeping only a regular fire in the kitchen, and another in a parlour, muſt expend ſix or ſeven guineas a year for firing alone. Would parliament take off the duty upon coals carried coaſtwiſe, the improvement of this town, and the neighbouring country, would advance with inconceivable rapidity. The late Earl of Stair made ſeveral unſucceſsful attempts to find coal in the neighbourhood.

Church and Stipend.—A new, commodious, and even elegant church, was finiſhed in 1785, at a very conſiderable expence. The ſtipend is, at an average, about L. 60 Sterling, payable in meal and money, as modified in the year 1649, and confirmed by a new decreet in the year 1696. One of the preceding incumbents, Mr Walter Laurie, left ſome parks in the neighbourhood, and a houſe in the town, to his ſucceſſors for ever, to ſupply the want of a glebe and manſe. The parks are about 30 acres; they hold of Mr Vans Agnew, and pay L. 3 : 11 : $1\frac{1}{4}$, as feu and teind. The houſe was rebuilt in 1761. To Mr Laurie's munificence the miniſter of Stranraer is indebted for the tolerably decent manner in which he lives. The miniſter has a right alſo to the vicarage teind of the herrings taken in Lochryan, by the inhabitants of the town and Clayhole, at the rate of the twentieth herring: But this depending on a ſubject ſo precarious in itſelf, and ſo difficult to be levied, can never be productive. The preſent miniſter may truly ſay he has not, on an average, received 10 s. a year from this ſource. He was admitted

admitted minister in 1772, and is the third minister since the Revolution.

At the eastern extremity of the town's jurisdiction is a seceding meeting-house, belonging to the Antiburghers, scattered over the whole Rhyns. There are 443 persons on the examination roll of this congregation. There are two other sectaries, Smeatonites and M'Millanites, but they are not numerous.

School.—The magistrates built a very convenient schoolhouse a few years ago. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 11. The number of scholars 60 or 70. With quarter wages, and the different perquisites commonly annexed to the office, it may be worth between L. 40 and L. 50 a year. There are some private schools also; some of them pretty numerous in scholars.

Poor.—The town is oppressed with Irish vagrants, who come over in crowds, and lodge in the suburbs and neighbouring cottages; and, besides occasional depredations on property, levy very heavy contributions from the humanity of the inhabitants. The poor are supplied from the weekly collections; from the interest of a capital of L. 200, accumulated from different legacies; and from an annual benefaction of the Earl of Stair.

Population.—The return made to Dr Webster of the population of this town, about 40 years ago, was only 649 souls; but now, according to a very accurate enumeration of the inhabitants recently made, there were, at the beginning of the year 1791, no less than 1602. Of these, 1276 were 8 years of age and upwards; 260 below 8; and 66 sectaries of different

rent denominations. In 1780, there were 1050 above 8 years. Children below this age, and sectaries, were not included in the enumeration then taken *.

Abstract of Marriages and Baptisms from 1st January 1780.

Married in	1780	9	Baptised		49
———	1781	9	———		42
———	1782	7	———		46
———	1783	10	———		41
———	1784	11	———		38
———	1785	12	———		38
———	1786	11	———		38
———	1787	12	———		43
———	1788	10	———		48
———	1789	21	———		40
———	1790	9	———		36

The register of burials cannot be depended on.

Rent.—The rent of houses is in proportion to their situation and conveniencies. The land contiguous to the town, on the east and south, is in the parish of Inch, and belongs to the Earl of Stair; that on the south-west and west to Mr Vans Agnew, and is in the parish of Lochswalt. It is divided into small inclosures with turf fences, to accommodate the inhabitants, and is let at various rates, from 20 s. to 2 guineas an acre.

Prices

* Two villages, Clayhole and Hill-head, belonging to the parish of Lochswalt, are so closely joined to Stranraer, being separated from it only by an ideal line, that they may be, and indeed often are, considered, especially by strangers, as part of the town. They contain about 500 inhabitants.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—The price of oat-meal is about 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 10 d. a ſtone. The ſcarcity occaſioned by the bad and late harveſt of 1782 was leſs ſeverely felt in Stranraer than in moſt places. The late Earl of Stair, and ſome of the more wealthy inhabitants, procured meal early in the ſeaſon, at a reaſonable price, and ſold it at 2 s. a ſtone; 70 or 80 poor families in the town were indeed ſupplied at 1 s. 8 d. a ſtone. The price of good beef, laſt Martinmas, was 2½ d. and 2¾ d. a pound, of 16 ounces, when taken in whole carcaſes, or by the quarter; mutton the ſame; they are now 3 d. and 3½ d.; veal 4 d.; lamb, when plenty, 2½ d. and 3 d.; ſalmon, from Glenluce and Ballantrae, 2 d. a pound; butter 8 d. a pound, of 24 ounces; eggs 2 d. a dozen; fowls 8d.; geeſe, at Martinmas, 1s. or 1s. 2d. a piece; a turkey 2s. 6d. or 3s.; rabbits 5d. a pair without the ſkins; water fowls at reaſonable prices; ſea fiſh, ſold by the hand, is extremely cheap. Little cheeſe is made in this country, and is of the pooreſt kind; it ſells at 4 s. the ſtone, of 26 pounds. A labourer's wages are 1 s. a day for nine months, and 9 d. or 10 d. the reſt of the year; a maſon's 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d; a houſe carpenter the ſame; a taylor 6 d. with, or 1 s. without victuals.

Roads.—The great road from Carliſle to Portpatrick goes through the town. This road was made, and is kept in repair, by government. Government has alſo given a ſum of money to finiſh ſome croſs roads, which, when finiſhed, will render this county as eaſy of acceſs, both from England and from Airſhire, as any county in the iſland. The mail coach from London paſſes through the town every day; a diligence from Air to Portpatrick paſſes thrice a week. The other roads in the diſtrict are made, and kept in repair, by the converſion

verſion of the ſtatute labour, at the rate of 15 s. for every L. 100 valued rent The principal ones are in good order.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations —Strangers, ſtruck with the beauty of this ſituation, and the many advantages that forcibly obtrude themſelves on their eye, are ſurpriſed to hear that no manufactures are eſtabliſhed here; but the ſcarcity and high price of fuel muſt be an eternal barrier to the eſtabliſhment of any extenſive manufacture in the town or neighbouring country, yet there are very good artificers of every kind, who ſupply the demands of the inhabitants and neighbours.

A great number of the young men are bred up to the ſea. When the Hon. Keith Stewart was appointed to command the Berwick laſt war, 70 or 80 volunteers from this town and neighbourhood entered with him.

The only natural curioſity in this pariſh is St John's Well, conſiderably within high water mark. It is flooded every tide by the ſea; and in five minutes after the tide retires, it boils up in a copious ſpring of excellent ſoft freſh water.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF KETTLE.

By the Rev. Mr PETER BARCLAY.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

KING'S KETTLE, formerly called Catul, or Katul, is ſituated in the county of Fife; in the preſbytery of Cupar, and ſynod of Fife. The origin of the name is uncertain. It is, however, proved by authentic records, that the lands of Kettle were once the property of the crown, and were afterwards fued in 8 diviſions, in perpetual tacks, at the rents then received; which are ſtill paid to the King, under the name of Crown Rents. Kettle is bounded by Falkland on the Weſt; by Markinch, Kennoway, and Scoonie, on the ſouth; by Ceres, Cult, and Colleſſie, on the eaſt; and by Aughtermuchty on the north. The pariſh contains ſomewhat more than 9 ſquare miles. It is of a curved oblong figure, narroweſt towards the weſt; in length, from eaſt to weſt, nearly 8 miles; and in its greateſt breadth a little more than 2 miles. The village of Kettle is ſituated in the flat of the ſtrath, rather low and wet, on the ſouth ſide of the Eden; the floods of which reach to the ſkirts of the village. Balmalcolm is ſituated about a furlong ſouth-eaſt, at the foot of the riſing ground; and the road by Cupar, between the Forth

and Tay, runs through it. Coalton is on the brae head above it, and is clayey.

Soil, and Surface.—The largeſt and moſt valuable part of the pariſh lies in the courſe of that ſtrath which extends from Kinroſs to St Andrews. Here the ſurface is level; but towards the ſouth, ſouth-eaſt, and ſouth-weſt of the village, which is nearly in the center of the pariſh, it becomes bleak and hilly, including the higher grounds which run eaſtward from the Lomonds. The hills are in general covered with verdure, and in ſummer afford excellent paſture for all ſorts of cattle; yet, in ſome places, there are many large rugged ſtones projecting conſiderably above the ſurface. Woods are only wanting in this part of the pariſh to realiſe the poets deſcription:

> Juſſit et extendi campos, ſubſidere valles
> Fronde tegi ſylvas, lapidoſos ſurgere montes.

The nature of the ſoil is various. In many places on the banks of the Eden, which nearly bounds the pariſh towards the north, there are excellent carſe ſoils; yet, at a ſmall diſtance from them, extenſive beds of ſand, with a mooriſh, or moſſy ſurface, are frequently found. The ſtratum of ſand is in many places covered with a ſtrong ſtiff clay, in others with a light friable mould. Even in the hilly part of the country, the ſoil is in general excellent, and of a dark colour.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The climate is, for the moſt part, dry and healthy. It is not ſubject to any local diſeaſes. Some years ago, the ague was frequent in the lower parts of the pariſh; but, for the laſt 20 years, it has almoſt entirely diſappeared;

appeared; owing, moſt probably, to the many drains that have been made in this and the neighbouring pariſhes. The common people are now peculiarly liable to dropſical ſwellings of the limbs. During the above mentioned period potatoes have been introduced, and now form the principal part of the ſuſtenance of the poorer houſeholders. It may perhaps be ſuſpected, that this change of diet has produced ſome alteration in the conſtitutions of the inhabitants.

Rivers, Springs, &c.—There are no conſiderable lakes or rivers in the pariſh. The Eden, whoſe ſtream in ſummer is ſcarcely ſufficient for a corn mill, abounds with excellent red and white trout, pike, and eels. There are ſeveral ſprings, ſome of which are ſuppoſed to be impregnated with minerals. The courſe of the Eden being down a low ſtrath, bordered on each ſide by hills for a conſiderable diſtance above Kettle, and the river having very little fall, frequently overflowed its banks, ſo that the crops on its carſe haughs were always precarious, a plan was projected of making a cut ſo deep as to confine the water; but it was never executed, owing to the diſagreement of the proprietors of the lands which lye on the oppoſite ſides of the river. About 10 years ago Mr Johnſton purchaſed the whole, and formed the projected cut on an enlarged plan. A ſpacious canal was made for the water, 12 feet wide at the bottom, and 30 at the top, ſecured on the ſides by raiſed banks and hedges, which include a ſpace of 70 feet in breadth, and ſerve to confine the water at high floods. This cut has been carried on a conſiderable way, but not with equal effect, as the direction of the ſtream was obliged to be accommodated to the convenience of perſons with whoſe property it interferred. Mr Johnſton, ſince his reſidence at Lathriſk in 1783, has built an elegant houſe on the eſtate. He has alſo got ſeveral of the farms in-

to

to his own hand, and has improved them; ſubdivided them moſtly with ditch and hedge, and belts of planting; adorned them with clumps of trees, and elegant farm houſes of two ſtories and garrets, covered with blue ſlate, and rigged with lead; all which give more vivacity and beauty to this part of the country than it had before, and will, when the planting is grown up, enliven it much more.

Minerals.—In the farm of Barntark there is a quarry of free-ſtone. It is covered by a ſtratum of earth 4 feet thick. When this is removed, we obſerve upon the ſurface of the rock numerous impreſſions of vegetable bodies, apparently formed by branches of trees, of various diameters, curiouſly ramified and interwoven. The ſtone is of the ſame nature with that below, but of a darker colour. A large piece of petrified wood, and a petrified horn, were lately found here. About a furlong to the eaſtward of this quarry, on the declivity of the hill, ſome perſons ſearching for minerals diſcovered a large maſs of petrified ſhells of various kinds, ſome of which were completely filled with tranſparent concretions. The maſs is ſituated at the lower extremity of a lime-ſtone rock. The forms of the ſhells are moſt diſtinct on the ſurface. There are not any petrifying ſprings in the pariſh; but, in ſome places, ſtalactites are formed by the oozings of coal water. There is no marble or ſlate here; but an almoſt inexhauſtible abundance of moor-ſtone and free-ſtone, which are of an excellent quality, and much employed in dyking and building. Lime-ſtone of the beſt kind is alſo abundant: One quarry at Forthar, belonging to Dr Pitcairn, phyſician in London, and farmed by James Blythe, Eſq; employs, on an average, 60 perſons throughout the year, in the different proceſſes of digging, wheeling away the earth, blowing, and breaking the ſtones, and filling the kilns. A great number of men

and

and horſes are alſo engaged in conveying the lime to Newburgh port, for the Carſe of Gowrie, and other parts of Perthſhire, &c. The coals with which it is burnt are brought from Balbirnie and Balgonie, about 3 miles diſtant. A large quantity of iron-ſtone, excellent in quality, is found on ſeveral parts of theſe eſtates.

In Barntark Muir, the ſurface of which is a common, and covered with heath, coals have long been procured. For want of proper contrivances to carry off the water, they have not as yet been wrought far below the ſurface. Theſe mines, which are the property of Alexander Murray, Eſq; of Ayton, have been let, for the laſt 40 years, to Alexander Low, Eſq; who is now ſeriouſly engaged in attempting to obviate thoſe inconveniencies which have hitherto impeded the working. The coals are of a ſuperior quality, moſt of them reſembling the oily Newcaſtle coal. There is another ſtratum of coal, but inferior in quality, at Dovan, belonging to Dr Pitcairn. Coals have alſo been procured at Clothie, en eſtate belonging to Mr Balfour. Some time ſince, when ſinking a ſhaft to diſcover the extent of the coals, ſome metallic ores were diſcovered, which have not as yet been eſſayed. When thrown into the fire, they emit a ſulphureous ſmell, and in appearance reſemble pyrites. The price of coals at Balgonie and Balbirnie Hill is 7 d. per 18 ſtone Dutch weight.

Church.—The annual value of the living, including L.3 : 6 : 8 for providing the communion-elements, and L. 2 : 3 : 4 for paſturage, is L. 52 : 3 : 4 in money, 24 bolls of barley, and 41 bolls of meal. The glebe is one of the pooreſt in Scotland, its yearly rent not exceeding L. 2. The King is patron. The number of heritors is 28; but only the half of them are ſuperiors, the others being feuers. The preſent miniſter

minister is Mr Peter Barclay, who was settled in May 1778. He is married, and has four sons and one daughter. The church appears, by a date on it, to have been built in 1636. It has been twice repaired since, and is in good condition. The manse is at present in such bad order, that it is intended to move for a new one in the spring.

Poor.—There are at present about 14 persons who receive alms constantly or occasionally, being almost all infirm old people. The collection for the poor has been, for the last 12 years, L. 16 *per annum*; and there is L. 300 out at interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.*

School.—The school and master's house are in good repair. The master is rather too old for much activity; but he has an assistant of considerable abilities. The salary, with the house and session-clerkship, is about L. 22 a year, beside the school-dues, which are, for English, 1 s. 3 d.; writing, 1 s. 8d.; arithmetic, 2 s.; Latin, 2 s. 6 d.

Price of Provisions and Labour.—From the vicinity to Edinburgh, and many coast towns, provisions are commonly kept at the Edinburgh prices. The grain is always lower than the lowest Edinburgh or Lothian grain. A day-labourer is paid 10 d. a day, on an average; a carpenter or mason 1 s. 6 d.; a taylor 1 s.; but the common way of charging is by the piece. Labourers generally earn about 13 guineas a year; and their wives, if industrious, about L. 7 or L. 8 by spinning, when not otherwise engaged. The women always spin with both hands. Domestic men-servants wages, at an average, L. 6; female servants L. 2 : 15 : 0.

Population.

Population.—Number of inhabitants by Dr Webſter's account in 1755		1621
By ſurvey in 1778		1643
Males in the pariſh in Dec. 1790,	above 8 years old	639
	under 8 years old	187
Females	above 8 years old	753
	under 8 years old	180
Total inhabitants in Dec. 1790		1759
Increaſe in 12 years		116
Houſeholders		414
Separatiſts from the eſtabliſhment above 8 years		587
Of the eſtabliſhment above 8 years		805
Children under 8 years old		367
Males born in 12 years, from 1778 to 1790		323
Females		328
Total born from May 14. 1778 to May 14. 1790		651
Males dead in the ſame 12 years		200
Females		178
Total deaths in 12 years		378
Increaſe of population from births and deaths		273
Increaſe in fact		116
Perſons who have left the pariſh in 12 years		157
Average of males married in 12 years		$14\frac{1}{6}$
Of females		$12\frac{1}{6}$
Total average of marriages		$26\frac{1}{3}$

The higher average of males marrying muſt be owing to a greater number of them getting wives from other pariſhes than females huſbands. More males are twice, or even thrice, married than females. Women are better qualified, at leaſt, according to the manners of this country, for living ſingle than men.

Average

Average of males born in 12 years	$26\frac{1}{12}$
Females	$27\frac{1}{7}$
Total average of births	$54\frac{1}{4}$
Average of males dead in 12 years	$26\frac{2}{3}$
Females	$14\frac{5}{6}$
Total average of deaths	$31\frac{1}{2}$
Average of a family nearly	$4\frac{1}{4}$
30 families conſiſt only of one individual.	
Kettle village contains of inhabitants	516
Balmalcolm	81
Coalton	78
Country part of the pariſh	1084

The mean population may be nearly had by multiplying the average of births by $31\frac{1}{7}$; or the average of deaths by 54; or the average of marriages by $64\frac{1}{7}$; or the average of a family by the number of families. The mean or average population, for any time, is the real population increaſed or diminiſhed by half the decreaſe or increaſe in that time: Thus, the real population 1759, diminiſhed by 58, half the increaſe is 1701. But this can only be true on the ſuppoſition that the increaſe or decreaſe is uniform. The true mean population muſt be deduced from the following Table, which poſſeſſes many more important uſes than merely determining the population.

A Table, ſhewing the number dead in 20 years, viz. 625, and the number who have died at each age.

Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.
0	20	20	7	40	3	60.	10	80	4
1	40	21	7	41	3	61	10	81	4
2	35	22	7	42	3	62	10	82	4
3	20	23	6	43	3	63	10	83	4
4	15	24	6	44	3	64	10	84	3
5	10	25	6	45	3	65	10	85	3
6	8	26	5	46	3	66	10	86	3
7	6	27	5	47	3	67	10	87	2
8	4	28	5	48	4	68	10	88	2
9	3	29	4	49	5	69	10	89	2
10	3	30	4	50	6	70	10	90	2
11	3	31	4	51	6	71	10	91	2
12	3	32	4	52	6	72	10	92	2
13	4	33	4	53	6	73	9	93	2
14	4	34	4	54	6	74	8	94	1
15	5	35	4	55	7	75	7	95	1
16	5	36	4	56	8	76	6		
17	6	37	4	57	9	77	5		625
18	6	38	4	58	9	78	5		
19	7	39	4	59	9	79	4		

625÷20=31.25 medium deaths in the parish. This Table, upon trial, is found to anſwer better for Scotland than any yet publiſhed by Mr Wilkie.

By this Table, there will be found living together 25392 ſouls; ſo that, ſuppoſing the number of deaths and births equal, viz. 625 yearly, the population would be 25392. Hence 1 birth and 1 death would give a population of 40.6;

or the expectation of life for a child in Kettle parish is 40.6 years. Thus, 625 : 25392 :: 1 : 40.6. Kettle population, by this rule, would be 31.5+54.25 (i. e. medium deaths and births), ÷2=42.87, which ×40.1 (—.5 deduced for the time of the year in which an infant may be born),=1719, the medium population of 12 years.

Beside the people employed in a manufacture, to be mentioned afterwards, there are,

Blacksmiths, including 3 apprentices	7
Shoemakers, including 2 apprentices	8
Taylors, including 4 apprentices	10
Butchers	2
Bakers	2
Carpenters and wheelwrights	8
Lint-dressers	5
Masons	12
Clockmaker	1
Colliers, about	12
Hired servants, exclusive of apprentices	130
Day-labourers, who have families, about	90
Gardeners	4
Students at college	4
Shop-keepers	3
Gentlemen's families	6
Clergy, 1 established and 1 relief	2
Batchelors, not including domestic servants, and children who have not left their father's house	10

Manufacture.—A considerable quantity of linen, from 7 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a yard is made in the parish; a small part of it is bleached; but the most of it is sold as it comes out of the loom in Cupar or Auchtermuchty, and thence sent to Glas-

gow, Leeds, and London. There are about 170 looms, which are wrought or superintended by about 60 master weavers; the number of apprentices is 18, and the rest of the workmen are journeymen. During their apprenticeship, or stay in their master's houses as journeymen, they pay 2 s. a week for board, and live wonderfully well. The average gross produce of a loom, including apprentices and old men who do little work, is about L. 60 a year, (a good hand will fetch considerably above L. 100); and the average gross expence to the master in lint, spinning, boiling, working, &c. is about L. 46 : 15 : 0, most of which is laid out in the parish and near neighbourhood. The looms find employment for women and children; and hence, a family being advantageous, the men marry early; and hence one of the principal causes of the increased population. This manufacture circulates above L. 10,000 annually; the greatest part of which is brought into the parish, as all the work is performed by the inhabitants; and the greatest part of the raw-material is home produce. Of the flax used, about $\frac{1}{3}$ is Dutch, and $\frac{1}{3}$ Riga; the rest is the produce of Kettle.

Agriculture, Produce, &c.—The farms in the parish are 32, and the average of servants on each is 5, viz. 3 men and 2 women. Most of the farms have cottages, whence they obtain assistance in hay-time and harvest. Besides these, there are many pendicles (*prædiola*), partly let off the farms, and partly let immediately by the proprietor; and a great number of small feus, from 1 to 5 acres. The farms are very unequal, both in size and rent. The rent of pasture grounds is from 4 s. to L. 1 : 5 : 0, and of arable land from 5 s. to L. 1 : 11 : 6 an acre. About a fourth part of the arable ground is inclosed; and the advantages of inclosures is now so universally acknowledged, that all new leases are let on inclosing plans. The fences are ditch and hedge, or stone-

walls,

walls, as is most convenient or suitable. These commons lie on the confines of this and the adjoining parishes, and are now under the process of division.

	Scotch acres *.
Contents of the parish	15668
Of which there are, in	
Wheat	64
Barley	360
Oats	756
Flax	100
Green crop	100
Fallow	40
Pasture not arable	160
Grass for hay	400
Arable pasture after hay	2870
Planting	160
Common yet undivided	650
Black cattle in the parish	1050
Horses	260
Sheep of the common kind	500
Ploughs	76
Carts	128
Valued rent in Scots money	L. 6965 : 13 : 4.

The parish produces both more corn and cattle than is sufficient for its own maintenance, and of course brings the surplus to market. Wheat is sown, from the middle of September to the end of November; pease and beans in the beginning of March; oats from the middle of March to the end of April; and barley in the month of May. The harvest generally lasts during September and October.

Roads.—Statute-labour for the roads is partly exacted in kind,

* To convert Scotch acres into English multiply by 1.270773.

hinted, and partly commuted. A turnpike bill for the county was obtained laſt ſeſſion, and the gentlemen of the county are uſing every exertion for putting it in execution.

Antiquities, &c.—On Randen Hill, which overlooks Coalton from the eaſtward, and commands an extenſive view of the Strath of Eden, from Kinroſs to St Andrews Bay, are ſome remains of a circumvallation and rampart, of which tradition is ſilent. It is of a circular form, and nearly 200 yards in diameter. About half a mile to the eaſtward is another eminence, with ruins of the ſame kind on its ſummit. It is called Down Hill; is the higheſt in the pariſh; and commands the whole Strath of Leven, the Firth, and the Lothians. From the ſituation of theſe buildings, they were probably uſed as places of obſervation. The Knock of Clathe is a beautiful hill, riſing ſmoothly without any appearance of fortifications. A regular coffin, of ſix ſtones, was found here ſome time ago, by men who were digging for gravel. Within it were human bones, and ſeveral trinkets; among which was the braſs head of a ſpear, now in the poſſeſſion of the Earl of Leven. There are at leaſt 8 barrows in the pariſh, 3 of which have names; Pandler's Know, and Lowrie's Know, in Forthar ground; and Liquorich Stone in Kettle ground. Bones have been found in the reſt. There is a tradition about the firſt, that, when diſſenſions aroſe between families in different parts of the country, they met there to decide their contention by arms, and thoſe who fell were buried in the tumulus. The barrow in Forthar is ſaid to have been a regular place of burial, and to have had a church or chapel near it. But of this no veſtiges are now extant.

The lands of Clatto, which conſtitute the eaſt end of the pariſh

parish of Kettle, and through which lay the old road from Cupar to Kinghorn, belonged to a family of Setons, who are celebrated in tradition for the moſt cruel robberies and murders. The grounds about Clatto Den are ſtill deſert. In the face of the brae, which forms one ſide of the den, is a cave, that is ſaid to communicate with the old caſtle or tower of Clatto, a furlong diſtant, the remains of which are ſtill viſible. The ſame cave is ſaid to have had another opening to the road, at which the aſſailant ruſhed out on the heedleſs paſſengers, and dragged them into the cavern, whence there was no return. All appearance of a cave is now obliterated, by the breaking down of the banks. A ſimilar cavern was found, not many years ago, at Craighall in Ceres pariſh. Of theſe Seatons many ſtories, replete with the ſuperſtitions of preceding ages, are ſtill current among the country people. One may ſuffice. One of the Scottiſh Kings, ſaid to be James IV. paſſing that way alone, as was common in thoſe days, was attacked by a ſon of Seaton's. The King having a hanger concealed under his garment, drew it, and with a blow cut off the right hand that ſeized his horſe's bridle. This hand he took up, and rode off. Next day, attended by a proper retinue, he viſited the Caſtle of Clatto, wiſhing to ſee Seaton and his ſons, who were noted as hardy enterpriſing men, fitted to ſhine in a more public ſtation. The old man conducted his family into the King's preſence. One ſon alone was abſent: It was ſaid, that he had been hurt by an accident, and was confined in bed. The King inſiſted on ſeeing him, and deſired to feel his pulſe. The young man held out his left hand. The King would feel the other alſo. After many ineffectual excuſes, he was obliged to confeſs that he had loſt his right hand. The King told him that he had a hand in his pocket, which was at his ſervice if it would fit him. Upon this they were all ſeized and executed.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are in general charitable, and well diſpoſed. Both living and dreſs have undergone a remarkable change within theſe 20 years, owing to the influx of wealth, and riſe of wages. Few, however, have proved inſolvent. Property has, in conſequence, increaſed in value, and is now rated at 29 years purchaſe. A martial ſpirit ſeems to pervade the lower ranks, who can ſcarcely be prevented from entering into the army or navy on the report of a war. Their condition might perhaps be meliorated by improving the lands ſtill farther, and encouraging the loom; but, on the whole, few diſtricts in the country have more reaſon to be ſatisfied with their preſent ſtate.

Kettle poſſeſſes very material advantages in its coal and lime works. Marl is eaſily procured. The lands are improved and drained with facility, from their ſloping direction, and plenty of water. It affords employment and ſubſiſtence for the whole of its inhabitants. The language commonly ſpoken is Engliſh, with a provincial accent. The names of places are ſaid to be derived from the Gaelic.

No eſſential hurt was felt from the ſevere years 1782 nor 1783 in this pariſh. Some individuals, perhaps, might be a little diſtreſſed; but, in general, the farmers made money in thoſe years. The crops being early, and tolerably reaped, yielded much meal, and ſupplied ſeveral places with good ſeed. Whatever degree of improvement this pariſh has yet attained, has almoſt all been given it (excepting the eſtate of Weſter Lathriſk) within theſe 12 years. Much, however, yet remains to be done, both in acquiring ſyſtem and execution.

There are 7 or 8 public houſes in the pariſh, but they produce

produce no bad effects: Moſt of them are places of accommodation, and could not be wanted. The inhabitants of this pariſh are neither chargeable with the vice of drunkenneſs, nor of waſting their time or money. Several new houſes have lately been built. Few cottages have been built, and as few allowed to become ruinous. There is no jail in the pariſh. Feudal ſervices are wholly obliterated.

NUM-

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF DELTING.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN MORISON,

Name, Situation, Extent.

DELTING, or, perhaps, with more propriety, Deltaing *, is of Daniſh or Norwegian origin. The pariſh is in the county of Orkney and Shetland, and preſbytery of Shetland, which has ſynodical powers within itſelf, the General Aſſembly being the immediate court of appeal. It is bounded on the weſt by the pariſh of Northmaving, from which it is divided by a long narrow voe, called Sulom Voe; on the eaſt by Neſting and Lunnaſting; on the north by Yell Sound, which ſeparates it from Yell; and on the ſouth by the pariſhes of Wieſdale and Sandſting. It is difficult to ſtate with any degree of preciſion the length or breadth of this pariſh, as it is much interſected by narrow voes, and no part of it is above two miles from ſome ſea. The appearance of the country is hilly, bleak, and barren. The hills afford plenty of excellent peats, which is an article of no ſmall importance in ſuch a high latitude, and under ſuch inclement ſkies. That part of the pariſh which is under cultivation, and which bears but

* *Taing* is a neck of land jetting out into the ſea, and *Dell* a valley.

but a very small proportion to the waste and uncultivated part, produces, in good seasons, very tolerable crops of barley, and a kind of bleak oats, and abundance of potatoes. Cabbage thrive in every kail yard; but turnip, carrot, parsnip, &c. are only to be found in gentlemens gardens.

Climate and Diseases.—The air is moist, but not unhealthy. The old people say that diseases are now more common than formerly, which may be ascribed to the change in the mode of living, especially to the general use of tea, of which the consumption is amazing, even in the poorest families, who will stint themselves in many essential necessaries of life, in order to procure this article of luxury. The most common distempers are the scurvy, which is not to be wondered at, as the people live much on fish and flesh, and use very little vegetable food. The dampness of the climate may likewise contribute to bring this terrible disorder to the height in which it often appears. Rheumatic and nervous complaints are said to be more common now than they were some years ago. Many diseases are introduced by the ships of different nations, which occasionally touch at these islands. Convulsion fits, of a very extraordinary kind, seems peculiar to this country. The patient is first seized with something like fainting, and immediately after utters wild cries and shrieks, the sound of which, at whatever distance, immediately puts all who are subject to the disorder in the same situation. It most commonly attacks them when the church is crowded; and often interrupts the service in this, and many other churches in the country. On a sacramental occasion, 50 or 60 are sometimes carried out of the church, and laid in the churchyard, where they struggle and roar with all their strength for five or ten minutes, and then rise up without recollecting a single circumstance that had happened them, or being in the least

leaſt hurt or fatigued with the violent exertions they had made during the fit. One obſervation occurs on this diſorder, that during the late ſcarce years it was very uncommon; and during the two laſt years of plenty it has appeared more frequently.

Lakes, Coaſts, Iſlands, Fiſheries.—There are in the pariſh ſome ſmall lakes or lochs, and ſome ſmall rivulets, but no ſtream that deſerves the name of a river. In theſe lakes and rivulets, the only fiſh is a ſmall kind of trout; but, about the beginning of Auguſt, ſea trouts, of a very large ſize, are caught in nets made for the purpoſe in the mouth of the different rivulets. No fiſh of this kind are ever ſold, but given in preſents through the neighbourhood. The inhabitants fit out boats for the ling, cod, and tuſk fiſhing, on the coaſts of the neighbouring pariſh of Northmaving. The ſeaſon of this fiſhery is during the months of June and July, and a part of Auguſt. How far the people, in general, are benefited by this fiſhing, will appear from the following ſtatement.

The Expence of a Shetland Fiſhing Boat.

	Scots money*.		
A boat 18 feet keel, completely rigged, &c. with a ſail containing 28 yards of canvas	L. 104	9	0
120 ground lines, at 26 s. each, fitted	156	0	0
8 ground lines for buoy ropes, at 20 s.	8	0	0
4 buoys, at 20 s. each	4	0	0
4 haddock lines, fitted with hooks, &c.	24	0	0
Total expence for boat and lines	L. 296	9	0

The

* Scots money is divided like Sterling, but is only the twelfth part of it.

The boat may laſt ſix years, and the lines four; hence it appears,

	Scots money.
That the annual expence on boat and lines will be	L. 65 8 0
Add wages of ſix men, ſuppoſe L. 20 each	120 0 0
15 liſpunds of meal, 48 s. at an average	36 0 0
12 pints of ſpirits, at 24 s. each	14 8 0
Total expence during the ſeaſon	L. 235 16 0

The fiſhermen carry many articles of proviſion from their own houſes to the fiſhing ſtations, ſuch as butter, milk, &c. on which no value is here put. Neither is any thing ſtated for inſurance, which in this trade ought to be very high, as the riſk is great.

The fiſhery is carried on in theſe open boats, at the diſtance of 12 or 15 leagues from ſhore; and when bad weather overtakes them during the night, which is often the caſe, the poor men are obliged to deſert their lines, and make for the ſhore, which, alas! in many inſtances they never reach. The preſent miniſter remembers two boats being loſt in one night, by which accident 10 widows and 53 fatherleſs children were left.

Annual Expence, and Annual Returns.

The fiſh is delivered to the proprietors, as caught, at 42 s. per quintal. At the principal fiſhing ſtations, each boat may catch, at an average, 800 ling, which may weigh 100 quintals, a little more or leſs.

Total

				Scots money.		
Total expence on a year's fiſhing				L.	235	16 ⅔
100 quintals ling, at 42 s. is	L.	210	0 0			
8 quintals cod and tuſk, at 30 s.		12	0 0			
30 cans oil from the livers, at 10 s.		15	0 0			
Total returns on an average					237	0 ⅔
Balance in favours of the ſharers in a boat				L.	2	16 ⅔

It may be proper to add, that, on the eaſt ſide of the country, each boat does not carry above 45 or 50 ground lines. The fiſhery on that ſide is carried on at much leſs expence; but is, in general, proportionally ſmaller than on the weſt ſide. This year the fiſhery has been very unſucceſsful; ſo that the boats will not have 400 ling, inſtead of the 800, which is rated as an average. The conſequence muſt be, that the poor fiſhermen, diſappointed in this only ſource of gain, muſt this year fall greatly in arrears to their landlords.

Theſe fiſh are cured for exportation to Spain, Hamburgh, and Ireland. They ſell, when dried, from 16s. to 11s. a cwt. This year, in general, no higher price than 11 s. has been given, beſides the 3 s. allowed by government for every cwt. exported. The greateſt part of the cod and tuſk is ſent to Leith, and ſold at between 16 s. and 19 s. a cwt. The proprietors of the lands, or receivers of the fiſh, make, on an average, a profit of L. 10 Sterling from every fiſhing boat belonging to their eſtates. Every tenant is obliged to fit out a certain ſhare of a boat, in proportion to the extent and value of the land he poſſeſſes.

The voes, by which the pariſh is interſected, furniſh, in moſt years, plenty of ſmall fiſh, from the livers of which a conſiderable

conſiderable quantity of oil is made. This fiſhing is the moſt beneficial to the poor tenants, as it is attended with no expence, and brings not only wholeſome food to their families, but oil, which generally ſells at 30 s. or 35 s. and ſometimes at 50 s. a barrel.

The common ſea weed, here called *tang*, is pretty generally, and ſucceſsfully, uſed as a manure for the lands. It is but very lately that the attention of the gentlemen of this country has in any meaſure been turned to the making of kelp. This article has, however, been increaſing for ſome years paſt; ſo that it is now believed there may be from 200 to 300 tons annually exported from the whole country.

There are ſeveral creeks and harbours in the pariſh, which would be of high importance in many parts of the kingdom, but are here of very little conſequence. There is an inlet of the ſea from St Magnus Bay, through a place called the Minn, a ſound which divides the Iſland of Vehementry, in Sandſting pariſh, from Mickle Rhoe in this pariſh. This inlet or voe furniſhes ſeveral excellent harbours; ſuch as Buſta Voe, South Voeter, and Alnafirth. In all of theſe there is ſafe anchorage for veſſels of a conſiderable burden; as alſo at Elwick and Mavinſgrind, both at the head of Sulom Voe, which divides this pariſh from Northmaving. If a canal was cut from the head of Sulom Voe to Buſta Voe, which could be done at a very moderate expence, it would open an eaſy communication between all the moſt conſiderable fiſhing ſtations in the country, and afford a ſafe navigation to ſhips of any ſize through the middle of the country. If ever ſuch a canal ſhould be cut, the banks of it would be a moſt convenient ſituation for a manufacturing village, which is not more wanted in any part of his Majeſty's dominions than here; For, during one half

half of the year at leaſt, a great part of the people are idle; and during the other half, what little work they perform can make no adequate return for their labour. Nay, after all their toil, they often do not receive the original value of the raw materials employed in their homely manufacture of ſingle ſtockings; which, however, is the only way by which many of the inhabitants can earn a ſingle penny. It would be preferable for them to ſell the wool, rather than take up their time in manufacturing it in ſo unprofitable a manner.

The iſlands on the coaſt of this pariſh, and which form a part of it, are, Mickle Rhoe, 24 miles in circumference, containing 14 families, who live on a few ſpots which have been brought under cultivation within theſe 40 or 50 years: Theſe lye along the ſea coaſt: The other parts of the iſland are covered with a kind of heath, which affords no bad paſturage for ſheep, horned cattle, and horſes; of all which a great number might be reared with a ſmall degree of attention. This iſland lies on the ſouth coaſt of the pariſh. On the north end are the iſlands of Little Rhoe, containing 2 families; Brother Iſle, 2 families; Fiſhholm, 1 family. Theſe 3 iſlands are in Yell Sound, on the northern extremity of the pariſh. None of them would be inhabited but for the ſake of the fiſheries, as the little corn they produce is generally blaſted by the ſea. Bigga is another iſland in Yell Sound, containing 4 families; half of it belongs to Delting, and half to Yell.

Agriculture, Cattle, &c.—There are not above ſix ploughs in the pariſh, and theſe of a very ſingular conſtruction. They are made of a ſmall crooked piece of wood, at the end of which is fixed a ſlender pliable piece of oak, that is faſtened to the yokes laid acroſs the necks of the oxen. The man who

who holds the plough walks by its sides and directs it with a stilt or handle fixed on the top of it. The driver, if he can be so called, goes before the oxen, and pulls them on by a rope tied round their horns; and some people with spades follow the plough, to level the furrow and break the clods. The only crops are black oats, sown in April, and barley, sown in May. Both are reaped in the end of August, or during the month of September. The want of inclosures has prevented any attempts to sow artificial grasses; but the meadows furnish a considerable quantity of natural hay. The parish can never supply itself with meal. A considerable number of black cattle and sheep is annually sold to the Lerwick merchants, who kill them, and send them packed to Leith market; meal, flour, biscuits, barley, and other articles, being bought in return. The hills, in general, are covered with heath, and afford good pasturage for sheep, which go wild without any herdsman to attend them. They are in general, however, so far tame, that they can be driven into punds or small inclosures, where the wool is *pulled* off, the young lambs marked, and such ram lambs cut as are not intended for tups to the flock.

Lime has never been used as a manure, except in a very few instances, where it never failed to produce great returns; in some thirty, in some sixty, and in some an hundred fold. But improvements by lime, or any other means, is seldom attempted here, for this obvious reason, that the tenants have no leases: They consider themselves as the tenants of a day, and have neither inclination nor spirit to attempt any effectual improvement of the grounds they possess; thinking, and with justness, that another may reap the benefit of all the endeavours they might use to meliorate their farms.

The

The pariſh abounds in horſes, horned cattle, and ſheep: The paſtures might no doubt bear a much greater number of each than they now contain. There is no ſaying, with minute exactneſs, what may be the number of each. If the ſheep are ſtated at 8000, it will not be materially under or above the truth. There may be about 700 milch cows, beſides oxen and young cattle. What the number of horſes may be it is impoſſible to ſay; but there is certainly a great number: They are very ſmall; and, owing to the little attention paid to the ſelection of proper ſtallions, they are becoming ſmaller every year.

The winter of 1784 was very ſevere, and cut off a great number of ſheep and horned cattle in every part of theſe iſlands. An account was taken, at the deſire of the miniſter, in this pariſh, and the return was 4506 ſheep *, and 427 black cattle, dead in the courſe of the winter, beſides horſes, of which no accurate account could be obtained. This, joined to a year of as great ſcarcity as the country had ever experienced, was very hard on the poor tenants; and they have not yet recovered the loſs. In that winter, the ſheep were often dug out of the ſnow, after continuing under it for 20 days; during all which time they had no food, but eat the wool from the backs of each other. Some that died after they were taken out were opened, and a hard ball of wool was found in their ſtomach. The general poverty of the inhabitants; their being obliged to be from home during the fiſhing ſeaſon; the ſmallneſs of their farms, and the precarious tenure by which they hold them; all conſpire to keep them in a ſtate of indigence.

Every

* This was the number of dead ſheep that were found; many periſhed whoſe carcaſes were never found.

Every man, from the age of 18 to 70, muſt attend the fiſhing from the 1ſt June to the 14th Auguſt. None are left at home but a wife, with perhaps a number of young children, who require all her attention. Every thing in the farming line muſt conſequently go to wreck.

The horned cattle and ſheep are ſmall, but the beef and mutton ſweet and well flavoured. The ſheep, in general, carry very ſoft fleeces. A few are to be found which carry wool of a very fine quality, of which ſtockings are made, that ſell at different prices, from 15 s. to 40 s. a pair. Some are knit ſo fine as to be eaſily drawn through a common ring, and do not weigh above 2 ounces. In the year 1782, the beſt ox could have been bought for L. 20 Scots; the beſt cow from L. 12 to 15 Scots. This year, 1790, and for a few years paſt, L. 36 Scots is thought a moderate price for a good ox; and L. 24 Scots is often paid for a fat cow. The price of ſheep ſeems to have varied very little in the memory of man. In the neighbourhood of Lerwick, 5 s. are paid for a wedder; but in this pariſh, and many other parts of the country, 3 s. is thought a high price. The carcaſe of an ox weighs from 3 to 4 cwt.; that of a cow from 170 to 230 lb. A well grazed cow yields from 32 to 42 lb. tallow; a well grazed ox from 48 to 70 lb. ſometimes 90 lb. tallow.

Population.—In 1752, the number of ſouls in the pariſh were 956. In 1785, there were 1417. In 1790, there were 1504. There are now alive only 5 houſeholders who were living 25 years ago. One woman is now alive aged 101 years; another died lately at the age of 105; and another died in 1784 at the age of 98. She died in the ſame houſe in which ſhe was born, and had ſlept only two nights out of it. The number of families is now 223. Each houſeholder has a

ſmall

ſmall farm, which in good ſeaſons, and when the ſmall fiſhing of ſillocks and pullocks does not fail, may ſupply his family for three quarters of the year. Including farm ſervants, there were, in 1782, 364 of all kinds in the pariſh. The number is much the ſame at preſent.

The population of the pariſh is materially different from what it was ſome years ago. The alteration proceeds from this obvious cauſe. The inhabitants have not been long compelled by their landlords to proſecute the ling fiſhery; but, ſince the proprietors thought proper to employ their tenants in that line, it has become an object to have as many men as poſſible on their grounds. This circumſtance has induced them to ſplit the farms, and make them ſo ſmall, that there are now, in many inſtances, four families on a farm which was poſſeſſed, 20 or 30 years ago, by one.

There are very few batchelors. The people, in general, marry young. A young lad, when he comes to the age of 18 or 19 years, goes to the ſummer fiſhery for a fee of L. 16 to L. 26 Scots. Sometimes the fees are as high as L. 28 Scots for 10 ſummer weeks. When they have been one ſeaſon at the fiſhing, they generally conſider themſelves as men. They are encouraged to marriage by their landlords, in order to prevent them from leaving the country; and the conſequences commonly are, that they find themſelves involved in debt and large families in a very few years. There is a ſet of very old regulations, called *Country Acts*; by one of which it is enacted, that no pair ſhall marry unleſs they be poſſeſſed of L. 40 Scots of free gear. This regulation, as well as all the reſt, is now not enforced; though all of them appear to have been well-calculated for the good police of the country. It is ſaid that theſe regulations were approved and confirmed

confirmed by the parliament of Scotland, in the reign of Queen Mary, or of James VI.

There has been no emigration from the parish during the time of the present incumbent: But, almost every year, a great number of young lads engage with the Greenland ships, which touch at Brissay Sound on their outward passage in the month of March and April. They receive from 30 s. to 40 s. a month. Many of these men are landed on the island when the ships return from Greenland; but many go at last into the navy. It is a fact well ascertained, that in the year 1763, there were 900 Shetland men paid off. What number remained in the fleet after the peace it is impossible to say.

The number of inhabited houses is 223. In each house, on an average, there may be from 6 to 7 people. There are at present no uninhabited houses.

Abstract from the Register of Baptisms and Marriages.

	Baptisms.		Marriages.
	Boys.	Girls.	Pairs.
In 1752	14	8	8
1753	13	12	15
1754	22	21	13
1755	18	17	9
1756	18	12	9
1757	16	8	5
1758	18	14	12
1759	13	16	9
1760	22	17	5
1761	10	10	8
1762	19	22	13

In

	Baptisms.		Marriages.
	Boys.	Girls.	Pairs.
In 1763	14	19	19
1764	14	18	10
1765	15	25	12
1766	13	13	5
1767	12	14	8
1768	20	20	12
1769	27	24	14
1770	14	13	11
1771	25	30	12
1772	28	19	5
1777	12	13	13
1778	16	16	14
1779	21	18	4
1780	23	24	9
1781	9	13	5
1782	19	23	9
1783	14	14	13
1784	14	17	9
1785	17	7	15
1786	18	21	10
1787	22	17	7
1788	6	7	11
1789	10	29	13

Division and Rental of Land.—The arable ground in the parish has never been measured, so as to ascertain the number of acres. An acre is a mode of measurement little known in this country. The old and standing mode is by merks of land, which are of very different sizes in different parts, according to their goodness. The lands have been, time immemorial, divided into 12 penny, 9 penny, and 6 penny land,

land. In a few instances, some of the 12 penny land has been measured, and was found to be $\frac{1}{2}$ of an acre to each merk, and 6 penny land $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to each merk. The rents of the different quality of land is thus stated: 12 penny land pays yearly 16 merks of butter, and L. 1 : 4 : 0 Scots; 9 penny land pays yearly 12 merks of butter, and L. 1 Scots per m.; 6 penny land pays yearly 8 merks of butter and 12 d. per m.; each merk butter being commonly converted at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. It is to be observed, that what is paid for these lands has not been raised, perhaps, since these islands were annexed to the crown of Scotland. Of late, however, the price of the butter-rent, when not paid in kind, has been raised from 5 to 7, 8, and 9 s. a lispund. Till a few years ago, it was considered as a standing regulation, that the butter part of the land-rent should be converted at 5 s. a lispund; a lispund contains 24 merks, equal to 32 lb. English; but the factor for the superior thought proper to charge the current price for the feu-duty butter; and many of the proprietors of the country followed this example: So that a merk of butter, which weighs $1\frac{1}{4}$ lib. English, is sometimes 3 d. 4 d. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. instead of being fixed at the old conversion of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. a merk, which was the former regulation. This the tenants consider as a hardship, as few of them can pay their butter rents in kind.

What is called the rentalled land of the parish amounts to 854 merks of land, about 600 acres. Besides this, there are many outsets, or new improvements, which are made by the proprietors, in order to find a settlement for the young men who marry, and whom they cannot accommodate with settlements on rentalled or improved lands. It appears rather doubtful how far these outsets or new inclosures have been for the real good of the island.

These

Theſe attempts to improve have generally been undertaken by young beginners in the world, who had neither ſtrength of hands to improve the grounds, nor ſtocks of cattle to furniſh manure.

The whole rent of the pariſh is 547 liſpund 22 merks in butter, and L. 1152 : 11 : 4 Scots in money; or, converting the butter at L. 3 a liſpund, L. 2796 : 6 : 4 Scots in all, or L. 233 : 0 : 6$\frac{1}{3}$ Sterling.

To the above may be added, 40 d. from each family for ſervices, when not paid in kind, and a hen and cock from every 2 merks of land in the pariſh. Beſides the above land-rent payable to the proprietors, the tenants pay ſeveral other duties, ſuch as corn-teind, which varies from 4 merks of butter and $\frac{1}{2}$ can of oil for each merk of land, to 2 merks butter and $\frac{1}{3}$ can of oil. They likewiſe pay the ceſs; and certain payments are claimed by Sir T. Dundas, called Scatt, Wattle, and Oxpenny. Theſe payments vary. In ſome places they are only 4 d. or 5 d. a merk of land; in other places they are as high as 12 d. and 13 d; payable in butter and oil in moſt inſtances. Theſe payments are generally conſidered of Daniſh origin, as taxes paid to the crown of Denmark, and continued ſince the annexation of the country to the crown of Scotland. When the lands are let in leaſe, or, as it is here called, tack, the tackſman commonly pays rent, and half-rent; and in many inſtances, double the uſual rents, for the profits of fiſhing.

The pariſh is ſo extenſive, that it is impoſſible to ſay what proportion of the land is waſte. No proper diviſion of the waſte lands or commons has yet taken place, nor perhaps ever will. For this reaſon, the ſheep and cattle of different

ferent proprietors must occasionally incroach on each other's property; no herds attend to prevent these incroachments, and they must bear with one another. The marches of the pastures of the different towns or farms are very imperfectly ascertained.

Church.—The living is now let for L. 56 Sterling, exclusive of an augmentation of L. 11 : 3 : 4 lately obtained. The present incumbent is Mr John Morison, who was settled in April 1782. Sir Thomas Dundas is patron. The manse was repaired after the admission of the present incumbent. There are two churches; the principal one about 7 and the other 3 miles from the manse; both in extremely bad order. There are 26 heritors, all resident except one; but the greatest part of them have only very small properties.

Prices of Provisions and Labour.—Beef commonly sells at 1½ d. a pound; slaughtered veal is seldom sold; a living calf is sold for 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. the skin of which will sell again for 8 d. or 1 s. 3 d. Mutton is never sold by the weight; an ordinary sheep may sell for 3 s. or 5 s.; a lamb for 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d.; pigs newly farried 6 d. or 8 d.; a good goose may weigh 10 lib. and is sold for 8 d.; chickens 2 d. a piece; a hen 4 d.; a cock 2 d.; Butter has been formerly stated. Cheese is never made. The price of barley and oats varies according to their plenty or scarcity. Wheat is not known in the parish.

In this country, every labourer, and workman of all kinds, must be maintained in the family where they work. A common day-labourer's wages is 6 d.; masons, 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. The only fuel is peat. This article is not to be bought. Every householder employs such a number of his friends and neighbours

neighbours as he thinks neceſſary, to dig the proper quantity. Theſe are entertained with meat in abundance, ſpirits, and tobacco. The expence, on theſe occaſions, may be about 1 s. 8 d. for every man employed. Women-ſervants, for the care of the children, and other work within doors, have L. 1 Sterling, a ſhirt at 3 s. and a pair of ſhoes at 2 or 3 s. for their yearly wages. Farm women ſervants L. 6 Scots each, and a pair of ſhoes. A man-ſervant, for three quarters of the year, has L. 9 Scots, and a pair of ſhoes. No man-ſervant can be got during the fiſhing ſeaſon, as they have better wages at the fiſhing.

Antiquities.—There are three Pictiſh caſtles in this pariſh, one at Burravock, one at Brough, and another at Burraneſs. Theſe are all of a circular form, and have no entrance but from the top. They are built of ſtones of ſuch a ſize as could not have been raiſed without the uſe of engines which could hardly have been ſuppoſed to be in uſe at the rude period in which theſe buildings muſt have been erected. There are, in different parts of the country, Pictiſh caſtles, more entire than thoſe in this pariſh. No tradition, or hiſtorical account, can now be had; owing, perhaps, in a great meaſure, to this circumſtance, that very few of the deſcendants from the original inhabitants now remain. When theſe iſlands were transferred from Denmark to Scotland, many from Scotland came over in different lines. By dint of ſuperior wealth, ſuperior wiſdom, or ſome other means, many of them acquired eſtates, by buying out the Norvegian proprietors, whoſe poſſeſſions in general were ſmall, owing to a regulation they had, of dividing their lands equally among their children. This regulation had rendered the poſſeſſions of each individual very trifling in many inſtances.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people in general are not disposed to industry; for which they cannot, however, be much blamed, as no way has yet been pointed out to them by which they might turn their industry to account. No manufactures are established; and, excepting what the men may gain by fishing, the wives and children at kelp burning during a few weeks in summer; they have not a probable chance of earning a penny, but by the manufacture of single stockings, which is loss of time, to call it no worse.

Most of the young men who leave the country embrace a seafaring life. It is the only line with which they have a chance of being acquainted. Many, who have left the country in this line, in a very mean way, have risen to independent and genteel stations. On the present alarm of war, one hundred men were demanded by the Admiralty before they would grant protection to the trade and fisheries of these islands. The proportion of this parish was six men. Sixteen, however, entered voluntarily.

The people are rather expensive and luxurious for their circumstances. This may be ascribed to many causes; one in particular is, that their landmasters give them unlimited credit. The people think they are entitled to this, because they fish for them. Whatever they want, or think they want, is furnished from the booth or storehouse of the proprietors, or bought from the shops in Lerwick. When the day of account comes, it very often happens that the gainings of the year cannot nearly pay for the expence.

The people in general are hospitable in the extreme, and disposed to humane and generous actions. Few wrecks have ever happened on the coasts of this parish, but, when they have happened,

happened, every attention has been ſhewn to ſave and comfort the diſtreſſed. When the watch was not very ſtrict, attempts indeed might be made to pilfer from the wreck.

The circumſtances of the inhabitants cannot be materially bettered, nor their ſituation rendered more comfortable, until one radical evil is removed, viz. the ſhort and precarious nature of the leaſes. For no man can have a ſpirit for improvement, or pay any great attention to rear a ſtock on a poſſeſſion from which he knows not but he may be turned off next year. Another thing eſſentially neceſſary would be to erect fiſhing and manufacturing villages, and the introduction of proper manufactures among them, ſo that the induſtrious part of them might have conſtant employment, which is now far from being the caſe. The manufactures moſt proper for this country are, 1ſt, woolen manufactures, in which the inhabitants are ſo far back, that they often ſell their wool to the Orkney people at a very low price, and next year buy their ſtuffs, made of the ſame wool, at a very high price. A well conducted manufacture of fiſhing lines would ſave a great deal of money to the country, and ſecure to the inhabitants a more certain ſupply of this important article than they can have while they depend entirely on an importation from Hamburgh. A tannery might be of conſiderable advantage. At preſent, raw hydes are exported, except a few which are tanned in the country, but ſo indifferently, as to produce leaf of no durability.

A total ſuppreſſion of ſmuggling would contribute greatly to the proſperity, and preſervation of the morals, of the people; provided, at the ſame time, the exciſe was taken off ſuch ſpirits as are conſumed by the fiſhermen during the fiſh-

ing

ing ſeaſon. They cannot proſecute the fiſhing without a little, and they cannot afford to uſe duty paid ſpirits.

A material alteration would be neceſſary in conducting the few improvements which are attempted. Inſtead of ſettling the youngeſt and pooreſt beginners on the new outſets, they ought to be given to men of ſtock and wealth ſufficient to enable them to make a proper improvement of the ſoil. The leaſes ought to be long, and, for a few years at leaſt, the rents very moderate.

Until the agriculture of the country be brought to more perfection than it is at preſent, until manufactures ſhall be eſtabliſhed, and villages erected, it would be proper to diſcourage, as much as poſſible, early marriages, when the parties have nothing to begin the world with, and perhaps both parties conſiderably in debt before marriage. The tenants complain that they are obliged to ſell all their fiſh, oil, &c to their landlords. It is, however, doubtful how far any alteration of this ſyſtem would be beneficial to them, were they allowed to ſell their fiſh, oil, &c. to the higheſt bidder. Their land-rents would of courſe be raiſed, and they might be deprived of that aſſiſtance, which they will always need in years of ſcarcity, until proper manufactures are eſtabliſhed among them.

Some years ago, a linen manufacture was eſtabliſhed, and a bleachfield laid out, but was ſoon given up, after the company concerned had expended about L. 1600 Sterling on the houſes, works, and machinery. The principal heritors in the country had ſhares in this enterpriſe; but, whether it was owing to the improper management of thoſe employed to conduct it, or from the company beginning on too extenſive

a plan, the ſcheme failed, and the partners loſt every penny of their reſpective ſhares. A linen manufacture was ſurely improper as a firſt attempt to introduce manufactures into this country, far back in improvement, becauſe no flax is raiſed in the iſland, and the people had never been previouſly inſtructed in the mode of ſpinning lint. The ſame ſum expended in eſtabliſhing a woolen manufacture would have done eſſential good to the inhabitants, and would have employed many a hand which is now idle, or employed in deſtroying materials, which ought to be turned to a more profitable account.

Another way by which the ſituation of the people in this country would be conſiderably bettered, would be to uſe leſs of Engliſh cloths, and fineries of different kinds, which have of late been imported in amazing quantities, and to be ſatisfied, as their forefathers were, with cloth and ſtuffs made from the fleeces of their own flocks, and manufactured by their own hands. But, at preſent, few or none will appear from home in any manufacture of the iſland, even on ordinary occaſions. All are clad in Engliſh cloths or ſtuffs, a very few of the moſt frugal excepted.

There are no bridges, nor ſo much as the form of a road, through the iſland. The traveller goes on his way with caution, through the hills and deep moſſes; and, by turning ſometimes to the one hand, and ſometimes to the other, endeavours, in the beſt manner he can, to get clear of the mires and ditches, and peat-banks, that fall in his way. No ſuch thing as ſtatute-labour is exacted, which appears a great defect in the police; for, though regular roads could not perhaps be made; yet, by very little attention every year, a much more com-

comfortable communication might be opened between the different parts of the country.

The ſituation of this, and indeed of every pariſh in theſe iſlands, in the years 1782 and 1783, and for four years after that period, was deplorable indeed. The crop of 1782 failed; the crop of 1783 was ſtill worſe; and, to complete the calamity, a general mortality of the horned cattle and ſheep took place during the winter, as before mentioned. Few, in compariſon, were left alive; and the diſtreſſed poſſeſſors of their poor remains were obliged to ſell the greater part, in order to purchaſe meal for their families. The meal was from L. 2 : 5 : 0 to L. 2 : 7 : 0 a boll. The moſt ſubſtantial farmers, after the loſs of their cattle and ſheep, could not afford to purchaſe any adequate ſupply; and many of the poorer could purchaſe little or none, but lived moſtly on wilks, limpets, and ſuch other ſhell-fiſh, as the ſea-ſhores afforded, added to the charity of their richer neighbours, which, in ſuch circumſtances, could not reach far, as there were many to ſeek, and very few that could afford to give a morſel. This pariſh had a deep ſhare in the general diſtreſs, being the pooreſt pariſh in the country. Government gave ſome ſupply; and news of their diſtreſs called forth liberal ſubſcriptions for their relief, both in England and Scotland. With theſe proviſions were bought, and ſent to the country, and diſtributed in proportion to the diſtreſs of individuals. This, joined to a general good ſmall fiſhery which providentially prevailed during moſt of the ſcarce years above mentioned, greatly aſſiſted the landholders to preſerve their tenants from periſhing. Every heritor exerted himſelf to the utmoſt of his ability in importing meal, which was ſold out in ſuch proportions as were thought prudent, according to the number in each family. There is reaſon to think that none died from mere want; but there is

no

no doubt that many, from the unwholeſome food which they were ſometimes obliged to uſe, contracted diſeaſes that brought them to the grave.

Eagles, corbies, and crows, often do great damage to the corn and young lambs. A price has been ſet upon them by the commiſſioners of ſupply, viz. 5 s. for the head of an eagle, 4 d for a corby's head, and 2 d. for a crow's. This regulation has made theſe birds of prey leſs numerous than they formerly were. Plovers, ſnipes, and ducks of all kinds abound, but no moorfool, hares, or partridges. The migratory birds are, the chalder, reſembling the lapwing. In mild ſeaſons they appear in the month of January. Sometimes not till the beginning of March, and diſappear in the month of September. Swans appear in great flocks in ſpring, in their courſe to the eaſtward, and in autumn on their return. They reſt themſelves for ſeveral days on our lochs and voes, but none bring forth their young in this country. Kittyweaks come in great flocks in the ſpring, and breed in the face of the higheſt rocks. Their young are eſteemed more delicate than chickens. Hens, geeſe, and other domeſtic birds, abound in every place.

The pariſh has ſome peculiar advantages, and ſome peculiar diſadvantages. The northern parts lie very conveniently for the ſmall fiſhing of ſillocks, pullocks, haddocks, whitings, and a ſmall kind of cod; ſome of which are caught at almoſt every ſeaſon of the year, and very near the ſhore. It has already been obſerved, that this kind of fiſhery is more generally beneficial than the great fiſhery of ling, cod, and tuſk, which can only be proſecuted during a few of the ſummer months. In the different voes on the ſouth part of the pariſh, there is often caught great quantities of herrings, from the

the month of Auguſt to December. Theſe are ſold to the lairds, or their tackſmen, at the rate of 5 s. to 6 s. a barrel, as they are brought aſhore. Two barrels of the freſh fiſh are taken to make a barrel of repacked herrings; ſo that the fiſhermen receive 5 s. to 6 s. for from 800 to 1000 herrings.

The language is the ſame as in the Continent of Scotland. The inhabitants, however, have leſs of a provincial brogue than many parts of North Britain.

The names of places in the pariſh, and through all Shetland, are derived from the Norwegian language; and thoſe who underſtand that language ſay that the name is, in moſt inſtances, very expreſſive of the ſituation and convenience of the place.

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF KILRENNEY.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM BEAT.

Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.

THE name of this parish seems to be derived from the saint to whom the church was dedicated, viz. St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, whose fame for piety was at that time great throughout Christendom. What serves to confirm this origin of the name is, that the fishermen, who have marked out the steeple of this church for a meath or mark to direct them at sea, call it St Irnie to this day; and the estate which lies close by the church is called Irnie-hill; but, by the transposition of the letter i, Rinnie-hill. What adds to the probability of this interpretation, is a tradition still existing here, that the devotees at Anstruther, who could not see the church of Kilrenney till they travelled up the rising ground to what they called the Hill, then pulled off their bonnets, fell on their knees, crossed themselves, and prayed to St Irnie.

This parish lies in the county and synod of Fife, and presbytery of St Andrews. It is about 2 miles long, and 2 broad, almost in the form of a circle, somewhat elliptical on the coast. It is bounded by Crail on the east; Anstruther on the west;

Deninno on the north; and one continued ridge of black rocks, that ſet bounds to the ſea, on the ſouth. The ground riſes gradually from ſouth to north, and forms ſuch a declivity as is a barrier to inundation. After a ſtorm, abundance of ſea weeds are thrown on the ſhore, which ſerve for manure. The land, at an average, lets at 40 s. an acre.

Fiſh.—The incumbent was born, and has ſpent the greateſt part of his life, in this pariſh; and, within his remembrance, vaſt quantities of large cod, ling, haddocks, herrings, holibut, turbot, and mackarel, have been caught here; but the fiſheries are now miſerably decayed. He can remember, when he was a young man, that he numbered no leſs than 50 large fiſhing boats, that required 6 men each, belonging to the town of Cellardykes, all employed in the herring fiſhery in the ſummer ſeaſon. He can recollect that he ſaw ſuch a number of boats throwing their nets at one time as he could not number, but heard that the Collector of the Cuſtoms at Anſtruther at that time, who kept an account of them, ſaid they amounted to 500, being gathered together from all quarters to this ſhore; and the winter fiſhery was proportionally great. He has ſeen 10 or 12 large boats come into the harbour in one day, ſwiming to the brim with large cod, beſides 30, 40, or 50, ſtrung upon a rope faſtened to the ſtern, which they took in tow; and, what will hardly be credited, many a large cod's head lying for dung on the land. At that time, a gentleman in Dunbar had the largeſt cod in tack for 4 d. each, on this proviſo, that every inhabitant of the pariſh ſhould be at liberty to pick the beſt fiſh for their own uſe at his price; and of all the thouſands he ever ſaw, the largeſt were bought for 4 d. At that time, he remembered no leſs than 24 ſmall brewers in the town of Cellardykes, probably ſo called from a range of cellars along the ſhore,

more, built for preparing fish for exportation, but now they are reduced to two or three, owing to the decay of the fishery. So strong is the contrast between that time and this, that not only few or no fish are caught, but, to the amazement of every body, the haddocks seem to have deserted this coast; and for two years past it has become a rarity to see one.

Population.—The population of this parish has considerably decreased within these 30 years. According to Dr Webster's state of the population, the number of inhabitants was 1348. The numbers have been diminished by the decay of the fishery and the union of farms.

33	families consist of	1	person	33
49		2		98
46		3		138
44		4		176
29		5		145
19		6		114
10		7		70
11		8		88
4		9		36
6		10		60
1		11		11
5		12		60
1		13		13
2		14		28
1		16		16
261	families		inhabitants	1086

Annual

Annual average of births from 1770 to 1790	34
Males born in the preceding period	331
Females	350
Annual average of deaths during the ſame period	20
Males who died	177
Females	235

Prices of Proviſions.—The incumbent remembers, that, when the fiſhermen uſed to lay up their winter proviſions, they bought beef for a merk Scots a ſtone; a good hen was got for 4 d.; a pound of butter for 3½ d.; and other victuals in proportion: Now, 4 d. a pound is paid at all ſeaſons of the year for beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork; a pound of butter coſts 8 d.; a hen 1 s.; and the price of geeſe, ducks, &c. is proportionally raiſed.

Stipend, &c.—The value of the ſtipend, including the glebe, amounts to L. 100 Sterling. Sir John Anſtruther of Anſtruther is patron. Of 9 heritors only 3 reſide. The manſe was originally built by Mr James Melvil, an eminent reformer. On the lower lentile of the higheſt window, which directly overlooks the town, he ordered this inſcription to be made, "The Watch Tower," which remains diſtinct to this day.

Rent.—The valued rent is L. 8470 Scots. The real rent is difficult to be preciſely aſcertained; but it may be ſtated at L 2195 Sterling.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter is accommodated with a neat little houſe, fronting the public ſtreet, containing a ſchool room and kitchen on the ground floor, 2 rooms and a cloſet above, with a garret, and a ſmall piece of ground before the door,

door, incloſed for a garden. His ſalary, as ſchoolmaſter, and perquiſites as precentor and ſeſſion-clerk, amount to about L. 11 Sterling, beſides what he can make of ſchool fees, which are here very ſmall. The number of ſcholars is about 50 or 60, at 1 s. 2 d. a quarter for Engliſh; writing 1 s. 6 d.; writing and arithmetic 2 s. 6 d.; Latin 3 s. which few are diſpoſed to learn.

Antiquities.—On the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, at the very verge of the ſea mark, is a cave, which ſeems to have been the habitation of ſome ſolitary ſaint in the days of old. The ſucceſſive tenants of this manſion have left figures of croſſes, rudely cut, here and there. It has been converted into a barn, and is large enough to admit two threſhers at a time.

NUM-

NUMBER XLII.

PARISH OF ARNGASK.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM LANG.

Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.

THE antient as well as the modern name given to this parish is Arngask. The name of the farm which includes the hill on which the church stands, is the same with that of the parish. From this farm the parish probably derived its name, which is descriptive of the nature of the parish, and is entirely composed of hills. It is compounded of *Arn*, which is probably derived from the Latin word *Arvum*, and *gask*, which is commonly understood to signify what is large. Arngask may hence signify elevated or large arable land; and, in truth, the hills in this parish are almost all capable of culture. The parish is in the presbytery of Perth, and the synod of Perth and Stirling. It is nearly of a circular form, and about 4 miles in diameter. It is bounded by the parishes of Strathmiglo, Abernethy, Dron, Forgandenny, Forteviot, and Orwel. In this parish there is a considerable variety of soil. Upon some of the hills it is light and shallow; but there are several banks of very rich fertile ground, capable of producing almost any crop. The hills are generally green, and afford excellent pasture. There is more land in pasture than in tillage in this parish. There

are

are two or three moors, moſtly covered with heath; and there is very little meadow ground in the pariſh. The arable ground is let at more than 20 s. an acre. It is not many years ſince the practice of incloſing began here; and it is only a few years ſince graſs was ſown. Seed time, if the ſeaſon anſwers, begins in March or April, and harveſt in September and October. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with the neceſſaries of life; and ſends to market corn, butter, cheeſe, fowls, cattle, and ſome ſheep.

Air, and Diſtempers.—The air is pure and wholeſome. The inhabitants are not oppreſſed with exceſſive heat in ſummer, nor do they ſuffer intenſe cold in winter, as the hoar froſt is leſs frequent and ſevere than in low places. The moſt common diſtempers are colds, which in ſeveral inſtances terminate in conſumptions. The ſcurvy is likewiſe a common diſorder, which originates, as is ſuppoſed, from the frequent uſe of oat meal. Agues were frequent ſome years ago; but there has not been a ſingle perſon afflicted with that diſeaſe ſince 1783.

Population.—For a long time paſt, the population of this pariſh ſeems to have been nearly the ſame.

Return of the inhabitants to Dr Webſter .	736
Inhabitants, anno 1790 . . .	554
Annual average of births from 1783 is nearly .	16
——— of deaths exactly . . .	14
——— of marriages within the pariſh, during the ſame period, nearly . . .	3
The number of perſons under 10 years of age is .	127
Between 10 and 20	120
Between 20 and 50	229

Between

Between 50 and 70 years of age	62
Above 70	16
Heritors (all of whom except 4 reſide in the pariſh)	32
Freeholders	1
Farmers	34
Mechanics	25
Seceders	152

Including herds, there are 59 male, and 35 female ſervants, who reſide in the families which they ſerve. Several others have families of their own. The people are ſeemingly content with their condition. They are generally frugal; and almoſt all of them ſober and decent.

Poor.—There are 7 poor people, who are every month ſupplied with a quantity of meal. The higheſt allowance is 8 pecks; the loweſt 2. Money is alſo diſtributed to ſome of them occaſionally. About 16 acres of land were purchaſed by the ſeſſion, for the benefit of the poor, in 1726, at 2600 merks: They now let for L. 15 Sterling *per annum*. This, with L. 4:5:0 Sterling, the intereſt of a fund, with what ariſes from the uſe of the mort-cloth, and the ordinary collections at the church, conſtitute all that is applied to the relief of the poor. The collection at the church from Whitſunday 1789 till Whitſunday 1790, amounted to L. 8:0:10 Sterling. In 1782 and 1783, the managers of the poors funds collected a voluntary contribution through the pariſh for ſuch of the lower ranks as were in diſtreſſed circumſtances.

Wages.—A day's wages for a labourer in huſbandry is 10d.; for a wright 1 s.; for a maſon often 1 s. 8 d.; for a taylor 6 d. and 8 d. with his victuals. The uſual wages of male ſervants

ſervants are L. 6, and ſometimes L. 7 Sterling *per annum*, with their victuals. The wages of female ſervants are about L. 2 : 10 : 0. The prices of proviſions in this pariſh are regulated by the neighbouring towns, Perth, Kinroſs, &c.

Church and Stipend.—Part of the church, at leaſt, muſt have been built before the Reformation, as there is a place in the wall for the font; and the ſtatue of the foundreſs (ſaid to have been a Mrs Barclay) has the beads uſed by Catholics hanging round the hands. The church was originally a chapel, built for the accommodation of the family of Balvaird, and their dependants. The ſtipend is L. 513 : 19 : 3 Scots, with 30 bolls and 1 firlot of meal; the glebe is ſcarcely worth L. 6 Sterling; ſo that when the meal ſells at 16 s. a boll, the ſtipend, including the glebe, will amount to about L. 70 Sterling. The manſe was repaired about 10 years ago. The church has got few repairs for theſe laſt 100 years. Meſſrs David and Adam Low of Eaſt Fordel are joint patrons.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is one quarry of good whin-ſtone in the pariſh, and more might be diſcovered if the ground were dug to a ſufficient depth. After much rain, the river comes down with great force. It is ſaid, that, in the place where a barley mill now ſtands, a fulling mill was entirely ſwept away by a flood. There are about 52 ploughs in this pariſh; many of them are drawn by oxen; but the number of ſuch ploughs is gradually diminiſhing. There is only 1 two-wheeled chaiſe. A very ſmall hill ſtands near Damhead, between the new road to Kinroſs and the water of Farg, which is called Gallow-Hill, where it is ſaid ſtood a gallows, upon which perſons belonging to the barony of Balvaird were executed during the feudal ſyſtem. On the ſouth of Eaſt Fordel houſe there is a piece of ground named the

Captain-Ward, becauſe there, it is alleged, Oliver Cromwell pitched his camp, and lodged in the houſe of Fordell. The highway between Perth and Queensferry paſſes through this pariſh. Many of the roads are in a ſtate of nature. The inhabitants highly approve of turnpikes: Some pay the ſtatute-labour half in kind and half in money. There are 3 counties which meet in this pariſh; the county of Fife to the eaſt, divided by the river Farg from the county of Perth to the weſt and north-weſt, and the county of Kinroſs, which borders with both theſe counties, to the ſouth. The real rent is not known, as the lands are generally occupied by the proprietors. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2600 Scots. A houſe and yard are let at about 10 s. There are at preſent ſeveral uninhabited houſes. There are 123 inhabited.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF DUNNICHEN.

Situation, Extent, and Name.

THIS parish is situated in the county of Forfar. It is 15 miles to the north-east of Dundee, 9 north-west of Arbroath, and 3½ south-east from Forfar. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Forfar; on the north by Recobie; on the south by Carmiſlie; and on the south and east by the parishes of Kirkden and Recobie. It contains about 3200 Scots acres. It takes its name from the largeſt hill in the parish. *Dun*, a Gaelic word, is invariably applied in Scotland to hills on which ſome caſtle, or place of ſtrength, has ſtood; *Ichen* is unknown, but probably a proper name. On the ſouth ſide of the hill is an eminence, now called Caſhelis, or Caſtle-hill, with viſible remains of the foundation of ſome antient building. The only other hill in this pariſh is called Dumbarrow, probably from having been the burial place of ſome perſon of eminence. A rock on its north ſide is ſtill called Arthur's Seat. This hill is not ſo high as that of Dunnichen. The hill of Dunnichen was lately meaſured with great geometrical accuracy. The mill ſtream of Muirton fulling mill, at the baſe of the hill, is 209 feet above low water mark in the harbour of Arbroath; and the height from

that

that ſtream to the higheſt part of the road over the hill is $443\frac{4}{10}$ feet, above which the higheſt ſummit of the hill may riſe about 80 or 100 feet; ſo that the height of the hill is about 700, or 720 feet above the level of the ſea. The hill of Dunnichen runs about 3 miles, in a ſouth-eaſt direction; its ſummit forming the northern boundary of the pariſh. The pariſh extends, from eaſt to weſt, about 4 miles, and from ſouth to north, in one place, about 3 miles, narrowing a little to the eaſtward.

Diviſion of Property, and Deſcription of Soil and Surface.— This pariſh conſiſts of three eſtates:

	Acres.
Dunnichen, containing	1800
Dunbarrow	600
Tullows, conjectured	800
Total	3200

The ſoil, in general, is fertile, producing wheat, flax, oats, and barley. The ſeaſons are late, on account of its elevation. One field is now ſown with wheat near the ſummit of the hill of Dunnichen, and at leaſt 500 feet above the level of the ſea; no ſmall proof of the poſſibility of extending agriculture ſucceſsfully on the ſides of the high hills of Scotland. Dunnichen, containing about 50 acres, is in the center of the pariſh. The moſs of it was drained about 30 years ago, and now affords a large ſupply of peats: In all probability it will furniſh the neighbourhood with fuel for about 30 years longer, and may then be made a rich meadow. The reſt of the fuel is coal, brought by land from the port of Arbroath; and a ſmall ſupply from extenſive fir plantations, about 30 years old.

Rivers,

Rivers, &c.—This pariſh contains no river nor lake. It is watered by one ſmall brook, called Vinny, ſome ſay Finny, or Attle, which takes its riſe in a neighbouring moſs. It runs from weſt to eaſt, along the ſouth baſe of the hill of Dunnichen, and in its courſe turns one flax mill, and one mill for waſhing yarn. It joins Lunan water about 4 miles below. The burn of Craichy, which forms one of its ſources, turns a corn mill. It contains ſome trout, much diminiſhed of late in their number, by flax being ſteeped in and near its ſtream. A ſmall brook runs out of the moſs of Dunnichen, and falls into Vinny at the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh.

Manufactures, Villages, and Fairs.—Many weavers, principally of courſe linen, inhabit this pariſh. An attempt is now making to introduce the manufacture of coarſe cottons. Dunnichen is itſelf a very ſmall village, conſiſting of the houſes of the proprietor, the manſe, a public houſe, and the houſes of a few mechanics and labourers, not exceeding 14 in all. To the eaſtward is the village of Drimmitormont, a very old village, inhabited by weavers, each of whom occupy ſix or eight acres of land. In the year 1788, a farm of 66 acres, called Letham, has been laid out by the proprietor of Dunnichen for a village. Streets have been marked out on a regular plan, and lots of any extent are let upon perpetual leaſes, at the rate of L. 2 an acre. It contains already about 20 families, and new houſes are riſing on it daily, the ſituation being favourable for ſuch a plan, by having Vinny water on the ſouth, the perennial brook of Dunnichen moſs running through it, plenty of freeſtones on the farm itſelf, and thriving woods and a moſs in its neighbourhood. Here a fair or market has lately begun to be held, once a fortnight, on Thurſdays, for the ſale of cloth, yarn, and flax; and L. 400 or L. 500 are

ſome-

ſometimes returned in one market-day. An old eſtabliſhed fair is annually held at Dunnichen, on the 2d Wedneſday of March, old ſtyle, called the fair of St Cauſnan. It is a toy fair, at which neither horſes, corn, nor cattle, are ſold.

Church and Stipend.—The church is ſmall and old. It was dedicated to St Cauſnan. There are ſome doubts, even in the Popiſh kalendar, of the exiſtence of this ſaint, although a large well near the church alſo bears his name; and the falls of ſnow, which generally happen in March all over Great Britain, is in this neighbourhood called St Cauſnan's Flaw. The miniſter's ſtipend is about L. 70 a year, paid chiefly in oat-meal and barley, beſides a glebe of 4 arable acres, and 2 acres of graſs ground.

School.—There is a pariſh ſchool here. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 8 : 6 : 0 yearly, with a houſe, ſchool-houſe, and kitchen-garden. The preſent ſchoolmaſter, by his aſſiduous application to the duties of his office, has raiſed a conſiderable ſchool, having ſeldom fewer than 50 or 60 ſcholars, whom he teaches to read and write Engliſh, arithmetic, and Latin, when any of the children require that branch of education.

State of the Poor, Parochial Funds, and Records.—There may be about a dozen of poor and indigent perſons belonging to this pariſh, principally reduced to poverty by old age or diſtempers. A ſufficient fund for their maintenance ariſes from the voluntary contributions of the pariſhioners, collected on Sundays, and at the time of the ſacrament. It amounts at preſent to about L. 20 Sterling a year, and is yearly increaſing; and from it a reſerve of L. 62 : 1 : 10 has been made as a proviſion for bad ſeaſons. Of theſe poor people ſome receive

receive a quarterly, and ſome a weekly allowance, according as their neceſſities require. The fund is managed by the clergyman and kirk-ſeſſion, who being intimately acquainted with the circumſtances of every poor perſon in the pariſh, are enabled thereby to proportion the ſupply to their wants and exigencies.

This pariſh affords one, among perhaps many inſtances in Scotland, how ſafely the maintenance of the poor may be left to the humane and charitable diſpoſition of the people, and how unneceſſary it is to call in poſitive laws to their aſſiſtance; for, if ſuch laws provide funds for maintaining the poor, they alſo provide poor for conſuming the funds.

Population.—This pariſh has much increaſed in its population ſince the returns made to Dr Webſter about 40 years ago, and it ſtill continues on the increaſe. At the above mentioned period, it contained only 612 inhabitants; whereas it appears, from a ſurvey made laſt year, that their number amounts to 872, whereof 75 belong to the anti-burgher meetings of Forfar and Dumbarrow. An abſtract of the marriages, baptiſms, and burials, for the laſt ten years, is ſubjoined.

Years.	Baptiſms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1781	19	10	14
1782	19	15	20
1783	29	9	12
1784	22	5	13
1785	25	12	30
1786	24	7	45
1787	29	10	14

Years.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1788	22	4	18
1789	33	14	10
1790	25	3	14
	237	89	190
Yearly average	24	9	19

As the disproportion between the deaths of males and females appears somewhat extraordinary, it is inserted from the grave-digger's Report.

	Men.	Women.
1781	11	3
1782	18	2
1783	9	3
1784	11	2
1785	27	3
1786	40	5
1787	12	2
1788	18	0
1789	7	3
	153	23

Disproportion nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ to one.

Mode of Cultivation and Produce.—This parish, like the rest of the country, has of late received considerable improvements in agriculture. About 30 years ago, the old system began to be altered. Leases, which formerly were few, and seldom granted for a longer term than 9 years, have lately been

been granted for 19 years, and the life of the tenant, and ſome for longer and more indefinite terms. On the principal eſtate in the pariſh called Dunnichen all ſervitudes were aboliſhed, viz. thirlage to the mill and blackſmith's ſhops, carriages, and bonnage, a word of Gothic extraction, which means ſhearing corn. Money-rent was ſubſtituted in the place of oat-meal, barley, kane-fowls *, yarn, and mill ſwine. The farms were incloſed with fences of free-ſtone. Better houſes and offices were built. The breed of cattle and horſes was improved. Turnip, potatoes, kale, and clover and rye-graſs, were planted and ſown for winter proviſion. The diſtinction of out and infield was laid aſide, and all the fields were cropt and cultivated in due rotation. But theſe improvements were much facilitated by means of a valuable manure which began to be uſed about that time in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, viz. ſhell-marl, to which the late conſiderable increaſe of the value of the lands may in a great meaſure be aſcribed. This valuable manure being found in greater plenty in this neighbourhood than any where elſe in the kingdom, or even perhaps in the known world, it may not be thought impertinent to deſcribe it more particularly. About two miles north from Dunnichen, there are a chain of lochs which abound with marl, viz. the lochs of Forfar, Reſtmeth, Recobie, and Balgavies. In theſe lochs, it lay long an inacceſſible treaſure, till, about forty-five years ago, Captain Strachan, proprietor of the loch of Balgavies, began to drag it, much in the ſame manner that ballaſt is dragged from the bed of the river Thames. This he performed with ſo much ſucceſs, as not only amply to ſupply his own farms, but to have a ſurplus for his neighbours. His example was

* Part of the rent was formerly paid in fowls, which were called kane.

ſoon followed on the other lochs; and, about 30 years ago, the late Earl of Strathmore, by means of a drain, lowered the ſurface of the water of the loch of Forfar, thereby opening a ſtill more extenſive ſupply of marl; and, in the year 1790, Mr Dempſter of Dunnichen drained the loch and moſs of Reſtineth, by which an inexhauſtible maſs of ſhell-marl has been made acceſſible. Marl is ſold at 8 d. a boll, containing 8 ſolid feet; ſixty bolls are commonly uſed for the firſt dreſſing of an acre of land. Its qualities are preciſely the ſame with thoſe of lime Which of theſe manures is preferable, has been long a ſubject of frequent diſpute among the farmers; but the chemical analyſis of marl ſhews clearly that marl is in every reſpect the ſame with lime, and poſſeſſes the additional advantage of being found in a pulveriſed ſtate, and requiring no calcination previous to laying it on the land. The ſimilarity of the two has been ſtill farther evinced by Mr Dempſter having conſtructed a kiln on a plan ſuggeſted by Dr Black * for calcining marl, which, after calcination, makes

* The conſtruction of the kiln, and method of calcining the marl, will appear from the following extract from a letter of Dr Black's to George Dempſter, Eſq; dated 28th November 1789.

"There is no doubt but that ſuch marl as you deſcribe may be burned to very good lime, if the proper degree of heat can be applied to it In a country where the only fuel is peat, I have no hopes of ſucceſs with the Reverberatory With ſuch fuel, in ſuch a furnace, it would be expenſive beyond meaſure, and perhaps impracticable, to produce the neceſſary degree of heat. Neither is the experiment likely to ſucceed in a draw-kiln, in which ſo much duſt and rubbiſh muſt be produced by the deſcent of the lime, and attrition of the maſſes againſt one another, that the paſſages for the air would be too much obſtructed But, in a kiln in which the maſſes of marl would be little diſturbed, the operation might ſucceed very well. I would therefore prepare the marl as the harder kinds of peat are prepared in ſome places, by laying it, while ſoft, on a plot of graſs,

makes a very ſtrong cement. The calcination of marl will, it is hoped, prove an uſeful diſcovery in this neighbourhood, to which other lime muſt be fetched from the diſtance of 14 or 16 miles.

The improvements made in this pariſh have been principally confined to the eſtates of Dunnichen and Dumbarrow. Dunnichen paid, about 30 years ago, nearly L. 300 of yearly rent,

graſs, and forming it into a bed ſome inches thick; this bed, while drying, may be a little compacted, by beating it with the flat of the ſpade or ſhovel, and, before it be quite dry, it may be cut into pieces of the ſize of peats. The beſt kiln for burning it ſhould have nearly the ſhape of a draw kiln, or ſhould have a much deeper cylindrical cavity than the vulgar kilns in which lime is burnt; it may be from 20 to 30 feet deep, and from 8 to 9 feet in diameter; the top of it ſhould be covered with a dome or arch, having an opening at top, 3 feet diameter, to let out the ſmoke, &c. and a door in the ſide of this dome for introducing the materials; at the bottom, where the kiln is a little contracted, ſhould be a grate 5 feet ſquare, the bars of which being looſe, might be drawn out occaſionally. In charging this kiln, lay firſt 18 inches depth of peats over the whole grate, then throw in prepared marl and peats intermixed until the kiln is filled to the top, and at the top of all there ſhould be ſome peats without any marl; then ſhut up the door at the top of the kiln with ſtones and mud, and throw in the kindling at the vent of the dome. The fire will be ſlowly communicated from the top to the bottom, ſo as to charr the whole peats, and to expel the remains of humidity from the maſſes of marl; and this will be accompanied with very little conſumption of the inflammable matter; but, when the whole is charred, it will begin to burn with abundance of heat, firſt at the bottom, and gradually upwards, until all the peats are completely conſumed. Then, by drawing the bars of the grate, the kiln may be drawn. I cannot ſay what proportion the peats ſhould bear to the marl, but am of opinion that a very moderate proportion may be ſufficient in the middle and upper parts of the kiln. To know whether the marl is thoroughly burnt, ſlake the lime with water when freſh drawn from the kiln, and try if the ſlaked lime will diſſolve in aquafortis, or ſpirit of ſalt, without effervescence."

rent, in corn, money, and other articles, in kind. The farm-buildings were ruinous hovels; the ground was over-run with broom, and furz or whins, and many parts of the arable land were wet and boggy, and all without trees. It has, since that time, been drained and inclosed. Most of the muirs, which make a fifth part of the estate, have been planted with thriving timber. The fences of many of the fields are surrounded with hedge-row trees. The land has been marled. The present rents may be fully treble the former. The arable ground now lets, when out of lease, from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 : 0 per acre. The meanest cottager is now better lodged than the former principal tenants. Wheat grows well on several of the farms. There is no where better flax, turnips, potatoes, and artificial grasses. There are several different systems of cropping the ground. The rotation of the best land is oats, flax or fallow for wheat with dung, barley, and sown down with grass seeds, grass for the three or four following years. A second rotation is, two crops of oats, a crop of barley, a green crop, a crop of oats or barley, with dung, and sown down with grass-seeds, hay cut one year, and the grass pastured three or four. Ten bolls of wheat are raised on an acre, and sixteen stone of scutched flax *. The inclosed fields are let for 40 or 50 s. an acre for pasture, and for L. 5 an acre for flax. Compost dunghills are in general use, with a certain proportion of marl, about 8 or 10 bolls to an acre, which is found to answer well; and it is generally now understood that, if fields are not over-cropt, they cannot be over-marled. It is difficult to ascertain accurately the increased produce of an acre, in consequence of the improved agriculture. But it is universally allowed that the farmers were poorer when the rent of

* A stone of flax is worth 12 s.

of their land was from 4 to 5 s. an acre, than now when they pay three or four times that ſum.

Minerals.—Little ſearch has been made for minerals in this pariſh. The moſt valuable is free or grit ſtone; it is eaſily quarried, and is found in every part of the hill of Dunnichen, and other parts of the pariſh, and is very fit for building houſes and ſtone-fences. A few ſtrata of whin-ſtones appear in ſome places, and a coarſe iron-bar in the hill. No ſymptom of coal has as yet diſcovered itſelf any where in this county.

Air and Climate.—The air of this pariſh is ſuppoſed to be remarkably healthy, from the many old people in it; and the climate is nearly the ſame with that of all the eaſtern coaſt of the iſland. In the ſpring, and beginning of ſummer, eaſterly winds generally prevail after mid-day, attended with chillineſs, and ſometimes fogs, though in a leſs degree than nearer the coaſt of the German Ocean. The heavieſt rains come in autumn and winter, from the ſouth-eaſt, attended by violent winds, which laſt ſometimes two or three days, and occur twice or thrice in the year.

Antiquities.—There are only a few antient tumuli or barrows in the pariſh, which, when opened, are found to contain human bones, in rough ſtone coffins. Pots of a coarſe earthen ware are alſo ſometimes found in them. Neither coins nor arms have as yet been diſcovered in or near them, to aſſiſt our conjectures as to their date. In the moſs of Dunnichen have been found very large roots of oak trees, and ſome horns of the red deer, and alſo a ſtratum of coarſe marl below the moſs, and ſix feet under ſand.

High

When the eſtate was begun to be improved, many of the tenants were unable and averſe to the modern ſyſtem. Theſe were generally left in poſſeſſion of their houſes, with a ſmall portion of land, on a leaſe for their own life and that of their wives. The remainder of the ground was laid out into new farms, and let to more enterprizing tenants.

It may not be improper to explain the meaning of ſome words uſed in this account, which, though well underſtood at preſent, will require to be explained to after generations, full as much as the moſt barbarous cuſtoms of our ruder anceſtors require to be explained to us.

Thirlage *.—When the proprietor of a barony or eſtate builds a corn-mill on it, he obliges all his tenants to employ that mill, and no other, and to pay ſometimes nearly double what the corn might be ground for at another mill. As this ſervitude tends to make millers careleſs and ſaucy, it will without doubt ſoon be univerſally aboliſhed.

Smiddy or Smith's Shop.—Formerly one blackſmith, who was alſo a farrier, was only allowed to exerciſe his buſineſs on a barony or eſtate He had the excluſive privilege of doing all the blackſmith and farrier work. For this he paid a ſmall rent to the proprietor, and every tenant paid him a certain quantity of corn. About thirty years ago, a perſon of this deſcription had this ſole right on the barony of Dunnichen, for which he paid L. 1 yearly.

Services.—Theſe are of various kinds. On ſome eſtates, the

* Some of theſe cuſtoms have been briefly explained in different notes in various parts of this volume.

the tenants are bound to dig, to dry, and to fetch home and build up, as much peat as is neceſſary for the proprietor's fuel through the year. In this manner the tenants are employed during moſt part of the ſummer. It prevents them from fallowing and cleaning their grounds, fetching manures from a diſtance, ſowing turnip, &c. On other eſtates, it is the duty of the tenants to carry out and ſpread the dung for manuring the proprietor's land in the ſeed time, which frequently interferes with his own work of the ſame kind. It is alſo the duty of the tenants to fetch from the neighbouring ſea-ports all the coal wanted for the proprietor's uſe. The tenants are alſo bound to go a certain number of errands, ſometimes with their carts and horſes, and ſometimes a-foot, a certain number of long errands, and a certain number of ſhort ones, are required to be performed. A long errand is what requires more than one day. This is called *carriage*. Tenants are alſo expected to work at any of the proprietor's work a certain number of days in the year. In ſome places, this obligation, it is ſaid, extends to 52 days, or a day in the week.

Bonnage—is an obligation, on the part of the tenant, to cut down the proprietor's corn. This duty he muſt perform when called on. It ſometimes happens, that, by cutting down the proprietor's crop, he loſes the opportunity of cutting down his own.

This whole catalogue of cuſtoms is ſo adverſe to agriculture, and to the true intereſts of the proprietor, that, in a ſhort time, their very names will probably be obſolete, and the nature of them forgotten.

The following plan of a navigable canal, not indeed within

the bounds of the pariſh, yet, being connected with it, ought to be mentioned. In the year 1788, Mr Whitworth the engineer was employed to take a ſurvey of the country, for the purpoſe of bringing a navigable canal from the port of Arbroath to Forfar. That gentleman made out an accurate plan of this canal, which he reported to be highly practicable. It required 25 locks to conduct it from Muirton Fulling Mill to Arbroath; the diſtance 13 miles 1 firlong and 2 chains; the perpendicular height above low water-mark 196 feet. The expence he computed at L. 17,788 : 17 : 8. As there is no reaſon to believe the trade on this canal would at preſent defray this expence, the plan is laid aſide, and the ſurveyor's Report is depoſited in the town-clerk's offices in Forfar and Arbroath. This uſeful work will probably be reſumed again when the country ſhall have attained more wealth, and further improvements. It would ſerve to convey coal, lime, and wood, into the center of a very populous country deſtitute of theſe articles.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF CARMYLIE.

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK BRYCE.

Origin of the Name.

THE pariſh of Carmylie furniſhes very little ſcope for ſtatiſtical inquiry. The origin of the name cannot now be aſcertained. In ſome antient records of the preſbytery it is called Carmylie, probably from the high grounds which compoſe the greateſt part of it: But this is merely conjectural. Previous to the period of the Reformation, the church was a chapel, built by the heritor of the eſtate of Carmylie, where the Monks from the Abbey of Aberbrothock, in its vicinity, performed divine ſervice, according to the rites of the Church of Rome, in their courſes. It was erected into a parochial charge, after the Reformation, by the Lords Commiſſioners for Plantation of Kirks.

Situation, Extent, and Productions.—The pariſh is ſituated in the county of Forfar, preſbytery of Aberbrothock, and ſynod of Angus and Mearns. It is of an oblong form; ſurrounded by the pariſhes of Panbride, Guthrie, Monikie, Kirkden, Dunnichen, Inverkillor, St Vigians, and Arberlot. It is about 3 miles long, from eaſt to weſt, and about 4 miles broad. It may be called a hilly and mountainous tract of ground,

ground, when compared with the conterminous parishes. The land is wet and spungy, and was thought, some years ago, to be better adapted for pasture than for grain. About 20 years ago, there were many farms in the parish occupied by farmers in the neighbourhood, who used them for grazing their cattle in the summer; but, ever since that time, the proprietors have obliged the tenants to reside on them; who, by driving lime and marl to their respective farms, and by draining their lands by sunk fences, &c. have greatly meliorated the ground, and for several years have raised heavy crops; which, though they were not equal in quality, yet, in quantity, were not inferior to those produced on the grounds in the neighbourhood, that have been long in a proper state of cultivation. On a very moderate computation, there is four times the quantity of grain, especially of barley, raised in this parish than there was 20 years ago.

Rent.—The land rent is supposed to be about L. 1000 Sterling. It has risen about a third within these last 20 years. There are only 3 heritors in the parish, none of whom reside in it.

Church and Stipend, &c.—The walls of the church were repaired about 40 years ago, and a new roof was thrown over it last summer. It is decently fitted up within for the accommodation of the congregation, who are a sober and industrious people, and regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. The stipend amounts to about 400 merks Scots in money, and a little more than 5 chalders of victual. The manse was built about 18 years ago. There are very good funds for the poor; and they are liberally provided for without any assessment on the heritors.

Population.

Population.—The population of the parish, as returned to Dr Webster about 40 years ago, was 730 souls. It has since rather decreased. Some mechanics, especially weavers, have removed to the trading boroughs of Dundee and Aberbrothock, where they meet with good encouragement from the manufacturing companies in these towns. Its inhabitants may now amount to about 700. The number of burials do not exceed 15 or 18 yearly. The births are from 20 to 24 annually. There are very few dissenters in the parish; not exceeding 20. There is only 1 brewer; 4 persons retail ale.

School.—There is a parochial schoolmaster here. His salary is 100 merks Scots; a house, but no garden. The perquisites belonging to him are very inconsiderable. His whole income does not exceed L. 20 Sterling. He has about 50 scholars in winter, and 30 in summer. Much praise is due to the people for promoting and encouraging the education of the youth of both sexes. They have subscribed a certain sum for building a school-house; and are determined to give every support in their power to the person who is to have the charge of instructing the girls in the different branches of needlework.

Birds, &c.—The dotterels, birds of passage, alight on the rising grounds about the beginning of April, continue here about three weeks, remove to the Grampian Hills, about 12 miles to the northward, and revisit this parish about the beginning of August: After abiding here about three weeks, they fly off to the southward, and are not seen till the 1st of April following. There are quarries of grey slate and pavement stones here, which have been wrought for some centuries. They supply the neighbourhood, and are exported to Fife, Perthshire, the Mearns, &c.

NUM-

NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF PANBRIDE.

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT TRAIL.

Name, Situation, Extent, and Surface.

THERE is reaſon to believe that this pariſh was called Panbridge about 200 years ago, and that it was an abreviation of Panbridget; the church here, which is very old, being built by St Bridget, or at leaſt in honour of her. An inſcription has been ſeen on an old grave ſtone, mentioning that it was erected in memory of ſuch a perſon of the pariſh of Panbridge. *Pan* is probably a corruption of the Latin word *fanum*; if ſo, Panbride ſignifies Bridget's church. This pariſh is ſituated in the county of Forfar, in the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, and in the preſbytery of Aberbrothock. It is more than 5 miles long, and about 2 broad. It is bounded by the ſea on the ſouth; by the pariſhes of Barrie and Monikie on the weſt; by Carmylie on the north; by Arbirlote on the north-eaſt; and a detached part of St Vigians on the ſouth-eaſt. The general appearance of the country here is rather flat than hilly; but there is a conſiderable declivity for ſome miles from the north to the ſouth end of this pariſh. The ſhore is flat, and very rocky.

Population.

Population.—Dr Webſter's ſtate . . 1259
In 1765, the number of inhabitants was exactly 1183
In 1790 1460
Annual average of baptiſms from 1762 till 1790 . 39
——————— of burials from 1767 till 1790 . 27
——————— of marriages 10
Seceders 20
Epiſcopalians 4
Independants 2
Heritors 1

The number of baptiſms in 1790 was 55, which is 4 more than was ever known here before.

Poor.—The number of poor varies from 8 to 10: They are all maintained in their own houſes; and there is not a beggar in the pariſh. But, beſides the ordinary poor, there is a conſiderable number of houſeholders in indigent circumſtances, each of whom get a boll of coals from the ſeſſion yearly. The funds bearing intereſt do not much exceed L. 100; but a conſiderable ſum ariſes from the mortcloth and hearſe fees. The weekly collections in church are from 5 s. to 7 s. or 8 s.

Stipend.—The ſtipend is ½ chalder of wheat, 3 chalders of oatmeal, 2 chalders of barley, and L. 30 : 5 : 6 Sterling; in which ſum is included L. 5 for communion elements. The glebe conſiſts of 4 acres, 1 rood, and ſome falls, of very good land. The King is patron.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is one mineral ſpring of the chalybeate kind, but it is not much frequented. There is plenty of ſea-weed along the coaſt for manuring land; but it has rarely been made into kelp. Haddocks, cod, &c. were wont

wont to be caught here; but for ſome years paſt ſcarcely any haddocks have been ſeen. Every crew pays 5 merks for the privilege of fiſhing. The price of proviſions and labour is greatly increaſed. About 27 years ago, beef was 2 d. a pound; it is now 3½ d. and 4 d. A fowl, which could then have been bought for 5 d. is now 9 d. or 10 d. The pariſh exports articles of proviſion. A taylor's wages is 6 d. a day and his meat; a carpenter's 8 d. and his meat. Some labourers get 6 d. and others 8 d. and their meat. The Engliſh is the only language ſpoken here. Excluſive of the large incloſures of Panmure, the yearly rent of the pariſh exceeds L. 1000. Hector Boece's anceſtors, for ſeveral generations, were lairds of Panbride. A ſhort hiſtory of the county of Angus, written in elegant Latin by a Mr Edward, miniſter of Murroes, in the preſbytery of Dundee, containing both a geographical deſcription of it, and an account of every family of note, was publiſhed in 1678.

NUM-

NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF LUNAN.

By the Rev. Mr GOWANS.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

LUNAN, antiently Lounan, or Inverlounan, is ſo called from a river of that name, near the mouth of which the church ſtands. The ſource of the river is a quagmire, at a ſmall village called Lunan-head, in the neighbourhood of Forfar; the Gaelic word *Laonon* ſignifying boggy or marſhy ground. Lunan is ſituated in the county of Forfar, preſbytery of Aberbrothock, and ſynod of Angus and Mearns. It is nearly a rectangle, about 2 miles long, and 1 broad, being one of the ſmalleſt pariſhes in the county. It is bounded on the north by Marytown and Craig; on the weſt by Kinnell; on the ſouth by Lunan water, which divides it from Inverkeillor; and on the eaſt by the German Ocean. The extent of ſea-coaſt is about a mile, being a portion of Lunan Bay, famous as a place of ſafety for ſhips in all hard gales, except thoſe from the eaſt. The ſhore is ſandy, and bounded with hillocks overgrown with bent; but the adjoining land is for the moſt part ſteep and high. The ground riſes ſo rapidly from the river towards the north, that, when viewed from the ſouth, the pariſh has the appearance of being ſituated on the ſide of a hill; but, at the top, it becomes again flat, and con-

tinues so to the distance of several miles beyond the parish. The situation is at once pleasant, and advantageous for agriculture. The higher ground commands an extensive view of the country around, and of the German Ocean; and the sloping ground answers well for draining, which in many places is much wanted; for the land abounds with boggs and springs, or what husbandmen call *spouts*. The greatest part of the parish stands on rock of meor-stone, commonly called *scurdy*: It is of a dark blue colour, and of so close a texture that water cannot penetrate it; and the surface of the ground, especially during the winter months, is consequently very loose and wet. This rock is the only stone found in the parish fit for building. It is quarried by blasting with gunpowder, by which it is broke into such irregular pieces, that, unless the masons be at uncommon pains, walls built of it are not water tight.

Soil, Produce, Rent, &c.—The soil of the higher part of the parish is frequently shallow; but of the lower, deep and rich, except a little on the sea-shore, which is sandy. The land is on the whole fertile, and produces grain of the best quality. The rent of the arable land is at present from 9s. to 15 s. Sterling an acre, but will probably be raised at the expiration of the present leases, some of which are not long. No value is put on waste or pasture ground. The valued rent of the parish is L. 1550 Scots; the real rent about L. 525 Sterling.

There are eight farms in the parish, very different in size and rent; and this number has been the same beyond the memory of man. Six of these farms, called the Barony of Lunan, measuring 790 acres, including 196 acres of moor, common to them all, belong to the Earl of Northesk. Ar-

luthie,

fuhle, meaſuring 400 acres, including 180 acres of moor, or coarſe paſture, belongs to Robert Stephen, Eſq; of Letham. Lunan, meaſuring 215 acres, including 62 acres of moor and waſte ground, belongs to Alexander Taylor Imray of Lunan. The whole pariſh, accordingly, when the glebe is taken into the account, conſiſts of 973 acres arable, and 438 waſte land. Of theſe, 40 acres annually bear wheat, 187 barley, 270 oats, 45 turnip or cabbage, 10 potatoes or yams, 16 flax, 40 peaſe, 324 ſown graſs, and 40 lie fallow. Some tenants have made attempts to incloſe part of their farms with fences of earth topped with furze; but few of them are ſo complete as to anſwer the purpoſes of a fence. The farmers appear fully ſenſible of the advantages of incloſures; and moſt of them in the neighbourhood have begun to incloſe with ſtone-walls; a practice which would be generally adopted, were it not for the difficulty in ſome places of getting ſtones, and the ſhortneſs of many leaſes. The pariſh does much more than ſupply itſelf with proviſions; more than one half of the produce being annually carried to market, to which there is eaſy acceſs by the high road. This road, and the bridges on it, were chiefly made, and have been hitherto wholly kept in repair, by the ſtatute labour, which was ſometimes exacted in kind, and ſometimes commuted; but, by an act of parliament paſſed 1790, it was made turnpike, which farmers at preſent conſider as a very great grievance. The ſeaſon for ſowing wheat is October; oats from the middle of March to the middle of April; barley in May; and turnip in June. Hay and harveſt time generally continue from July to September. There are in the pariſh 250 black cattle, 62 horſes, 21 carts, and 16 ploughs, drawn uſually by 4 horſes or 4 oxen, except in the ſeed time, when 2 horſes only are uſed; and then the number of ploughs are about a third more.

Price of Proviſions, Labour, Servants Wages, &c.—Proviſions have riſen in price ſince the commencement of the preſent century at leaſt two-thirds, and in ſome inſtances more. Butcher meat is at preſent from 3 d. to 4 d. a pound; chickens 3 d. a piece; hens and ducks 1 s.; butter 9 d. and cheeſe 3 d. a pound. The wages of a maſon are 1 s. 8 d. a day; of a carpenter 1 s. 4 d.; of a taylor 1 s.; or 6 d. with victuals; of a day labourer in huſbandry 1 s. The wages for harveſt-work of a man are from L. 1 : 5 : 0 to L. 1 : 10 : 0; of a woman from 18 s. to 20 s. The yearly wages of a male ſervant are from L. 6 to L. 8; of a female ſervant L. 3. Servants wages are nearly trippled within theſe laſt 50 years. Farmers prefer men ſervants who are unmarried to cottagers, chiefly becauſe they are always at hand, while the cottagers go to their own houſes after the ſtated hours of labour. Cottagers, however, are preferred for harveſt-work, as they do not require lodging, which it would be difficult to find for ſo many as are wanted at that ſeaſon. When a cottager is employed through the whole year, which is done in a few inſtances, he is allowed a houſe and yard, with about L. 6 of wages. Some eat in the farmer's houſe; and others are allowed, in name of maintenance, 6½ bolls, or 52 ſtones of oatmeal, with paſture for a cow; but, in the latter caſe, the wages ſeldom exceed L. 5, or L. 5 : 10 : 0 at moſt. By the wages he receives, with the produce of his wife's induſtry, ariſing chiefly from ſpinning, he is enabled to live pretty comfortably, to bring up three or four children, and to give them an education ſuitable to their ſtation. It is evident, indeed, that doing this with an income of about L. 10 muſt require good economy; but, unleſs it be wanting, there are no cottagers in ſtraitened circumſtances. Their ordinary food conſiſts of meal, partly of oats, partly of barley, potatoes, and milk. A family of few perſons, viz. a wife and four children,

children, the husband eating at his master's table, will consume 6 bolls of oat-meal, value L. 4; 4 bolls of barley-meal, value L. 1 : 16 : 0; and 3 bolls of potatoes, value 10 s. 6 d. There remains about L. 3 : 15 : 0, which is generally found adequate to all the other necessaries of such a family.

Population.—From comparing the present number of inhabited houses and of baptisms, with those of any particular period of the present century, it does not appear that the parish has suffered any material alteration in population. If there be any difference at all, it seems rather to have increased in a small degree. The present amount of its population is 291; of these 136 are females, and 155 males; among whom are 46 married or widowers, and 26 marriageable batchelors. There are 46 souls under 10 years of age, 74 from 10 to 20, 114 from 20 to 50, 51 from 50 to 70; and 6 from 70 to 100. The annual average of births, for 50 years backwards, is about 9, being in proportion to the whole population as 1 to 32, of marriages 3, and of deaths 4. A farmer's family, at an average, consists of 10 persons. There are in the parish 13 weavers, 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith, 1 shoemaker, and 4 apprentices. The number of servants in the parish is 68; of people born in other parishes there are 176; and it is remarkable that there is but 1 farmer, and a very few other householders, who were born and now reside in the parish. The number of children for each marriage is, at an average, about 4. All the inhabitants, except one female servant, who has only a temporary residence in the parish, are of the established church.

Church.—The value of the minister's living, including the glebe, at a moderate conversion of what is paid in victual, is about 88 guineas. The patronage of the parish belonged to

the

the Earl of Panmure, and fell to the crown by forfeiture in 1715; but the representative of that family is still titular of the teinds. From that period, to 1781, the right of presenting to the church lay dormant, government being either ignorant of the forfeiture, or not careful enough to claim the patronage. The present incumbent, who is married, was admitted minister of Lunan in April 1790. Mr Walter Mill, or, as he is called by some historians, Sir Walter Mill, a Popish priest, held the office of pastor of Lunan 20 years; but, afterwards embracing the doctrines of the Reformed, he was forced to abandon his charge. He was apprehended in the town of Dysart by order of Cardinal Beaton, carried to St Andrew's, tried, condemned, and burnt, at the age of 82, in April 1558. One of the ministers, Mr Alexander Pedie, who died in 1713, bequeathed some plate for the Lord's Supper in the church of Lunan, on this singular condition, that any Episcopal congregation within seven miles of Lunan requiring them should have the use of them for that purpose. There is a marble monument erected in the church to his memory, for upholding which his widow bequeathed an annuity of L. 4 Scotch, payable to the kirk-session. The church is an old edifice, repaired in 1773. The manse and offices were built in 1783, and stand nearly a mile north of the church.

Poor.—The poor in the parish of Lunan have been always well supplied. They have never been numerous, which has occasioned the funds to be uncommonly large. Besides the weekly collections, there is a capital of L. 500, for the maintenance of the poor, and other purposes to which parish funds are usually applied. The number on the poor's roll has been generally from four to six; but, from 1783 to 1790, there were eight; and consequently, during that period, the dis-

diſburſements of the ſeſſion were much about equal to the whole income. The dearth, at the commencement of that period, was certainly the cauſe of the additional number; for they are again reduced to ſix, who receive from 3s. to 4 s. 6 d. a month, with a ſmall ſum annually for purchaſing fuel. As no heritor, nor any perſon of ſuperior rank, reſides in the pariſh, and the congregation is ſmall, the weekly collections, which are only from one to two ſhillings, would not be nearly adequate to the wants of the poor, were it not for the annual rent ariſing from the accumulated ſtock. The origin of this capital appears to have been legacies left long ago for the behoof of the poor.

School.—David Jameſon, formerly a farmer in the pariſh, left 2000 merks Scots, half of the intereſt of which was for the poor, and the other half was made payable to the ſchoolmaſter for teaching ſix poor ſcholars. Till lately, this was all the ſchoolmaſter enjoyed; but, by decreet of the commiſſioners of ſupply, the heritors are now burdened with the payment of 200 merks Scots of yearly ſalary. This, with the ſalary, and uſual emoluments belonging to the offices of ſeſſion-clerk and precentor, and fees for teaching from 30 to 40 ſcholars, makes a living of about L. 25 Sterling.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The Engliſh, or that dialect of it peculiar to North Britain, is the only language uſed or known by the inhabitants of Lunan. Many places in the pariſh, it is probable, owe their names to their being ſituated in the neighbourhood of Redcaſtle, now a ruin, in the pariſh of Inverkeillor, and formerly a royal reſidence. Henee Courthill, where the courts of juſtice had been held; Hawkhill, where the King's faulconer had reſided; and Cothill, where the ſhepherd, it is likely, had his habitation and cots for

for his flock. The names of ſome places are evidently derived from the Gaelic, as the name of the pariſh, and Dunbartnet (called alſo Drumbartnet) from Dun a hill, which is ſo named from being ſituated on an eminence. There is a ſalmon fiſhery at the mouth of the river, but it has been very unproductive for ſeveral years paſt, yielding nothing but trout, with which the river formerly abounded. They are now much deſtroyed by the ſteeping of flax, large quantities of which have of late years been raiſed in the diſtrict. It is not improbable but this operates alſo as a cauſe of the ſalmon having deſerted the bay, where they were ſometimes caught in great plenty. The fiſhery is annexed to the farm of Lunan, and no particular rent ſpecified for it. Beſides the ſtated rent, tenants, in ſome inſtances, are bound to give their landlords, in the ſummer, one draught of their carts; their ſervants a day in the hay-harveſt; and their reapers a day in autumn. The difficulty of getting people to hire at a time when all are buſy, is the reaſon aſſigned for continuing to exact the two laſt. Tenants require like ſervices of their ſubtenants; but they are always limited to a certain number of days, and ſeldom exceed three or four yearly. Tenants in general complain more of being obliged to grind their corn at ſome particular mill, and pay high ſtipulated multures, a cuſtom which prevails almoſt univerſally in North Britain, than of theſe trivial ſervices, which are ſeldom exacted ſo rigorouſly as to make them diſtreſſing. The fuel commonly uſed in ſummer is turf, or broom, valued from 1 s. to 2 s. a cart load, of which there is plenty in the pariſh; and, in winter, coals, 70 ſtone of which, called a boll, coſt 6 s. at Arbroath, where no duty is exacted.

NUM-

NUMBER XLVII.

PARISH OF AUCHTERDERRAN.

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW MURRAY.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.

THE name of the parish, as well as many places in it, is said to be derived from the Gaelic. This parish is situated in the county of Fife, presbytery of Kirkcaldy, and synod of Fife. It is of an irregular form, about 4 miles long, and 3 broad. It is bounded by Auchtertool on the south, Abotshal on the south-east, Dysart on the east and north, Kinglassie and Portmeak on the north, and Ballingry on the west. A great part, if not the whole, of the fields are upon coal. Where the stratum connected with the coal comes near the surface, the ground is barren; and, even where this is not the case, it is not remarkably fertile. It is moist throughout. Part of the soil is clay, and part black earth. The valley in which this parish lies is bounded on the south and east by a ridge of ground, and on the west by a similar ridge. Though the height of the ground excludes the view of the Firth of Forth, yet the highest part of it, which can scarcely be called a hill, is under tillage. There are many little inequalities in the fields, so that they appear rather broken and disjointed. The same is the case with a great part of Fife. There are some rocks of a singular appearance. What strikes the eye

moſt is a number of detached pillars ſtanding perpendicularly on the baſe of the rock, and ſeparated both at the ſides and behind from the general maſs. They are of a regular figure, reſembling the trunk of a large tree. The riſing grounds are all green, but rather of a duſky tinge, as if the plant did not delight in its ſituation.

Agriculture, &c.—About a fifth of the ground in the pariſh is employed in raiſing corn, roots, &c. There is very little wheat. Oats, barley, and peaſe, are the common grains. Green crops of potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, are introduced; but, except potatoes, they are not in any great quantity. The ſowing of oats is begun about the 1ſt of March, and finiſhed about the 20th of April. The ſowing of barley is begun about the 20th of April, and finiſhed about the 20th of May. The harveſt, in a good ſeaſon, begins about the 1ſt of September, and ends about the middle of October. In a bad ſeaſon, it continues till the beginning of November. The paſture, including ſown graſs, comprehends 4-fifths of the pariſh. There are 51 ploughs, 17 of which are drawn by horſes only; and black cattle are uſed in the reſt. Small's new plough is introduced here. There is generally a cart to every plough, and about 18 more employed in leading coal, &c. They are all two-horſe carts. The beſt arable ground taken through a whole farm does not exceed 20 s. an acre when incloſed; and the ſame farm will let for as much on the ſame leaſe when in graſs and paſture. The poorer farms are let at 8 or 10 s. an acre when incloſed. The rent of one-half of the farms is from L. 10 to L. 20. There are ſix whoſe rent at preſent is about L. 30 each, which, at the expiration of the old leaſe, will let at L. 100. Only five are let at L. 100 at preſent. The land-rent of the pariſh is about L. 2000 Sterling *per annum*. The number of farms rather diminiſhes, which is partly

partly owing to life-rents and feus. They are, in general, inclosed; and the ground is so much more suited to grass than corn, that the most of the remainder of the arable land will be soon converted into grass. The people and proprietors are sufficiently convinced of the benefits of inclosing. Inclosing has banished sheep from the neighbourhood; for sheep cannot be confined within the same inclosures as black cattle. On one large farm there are rows of hedges and strips of planting throughout, which is a complete fence; and this mode of inclosing adds to the beauty of the country; and the plantations thrive. But the cheapest, the most valuable, the most speedily raised, the most lasting, and most general fence, is the Galloway dike. The stones are either found on the surface, or got from quarries in the neighbourhood. A field of 10 acres may be inclosed for L. 20; and the money is generally repaid in additional rent in 4 years. Fallow is not so general as in a more advanced state of husbandry. Of late, the arable lands are scarcely ever left in grass without sowing artificial grasses in them. The farmers pay their rents chiefly by raising and feeding a great number of black cattle, by which the circumjacent markets of Dunfermline, Kinghorn, Dysart, &c. are supplied. Agriculture has advanced greatly within these few years; and the face of the country begins to change rapidly. The rise of rents has contributed to the progress of agriculture, by promoting additional industry, and calling forth exertion. The rents are all paid in money, except a few poultry to the proprietors, and 50 bolls of grain to the minister. Winter provender is scarce and dear, owing to the number of cattle; but the farmers are beginning to provide stacks of hay from their own fields, which will prove the best remedy for the evil. Good hay, at an average, sells from $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4 d. a stone. The parish does more than supply itself with provisions. It exports particularly live-cattle, butter,

butter, cheeſe, and poultry. It imports rather more wheat bread than could be made of the wheat that grows in it. It raiſes oats nearly equal to the conſumption of oat-meal. No remarkable hardſhip was ſuffered here from the ſeaſon of 1782, although the harveſt did not yield above 4 months proviſions. The late Baron Stewart Moncrieff remitted rents to his tenants. The patron of the pariſh, with a well timed benevolence, directed the grain of the vacant ſtipend to be ſold at a cheap rate among the poor. The corn is ground by water-mills; but the rude cuſtom of thirlage ſtill remains on ſome eſtates. Landed property in Fife changes more than in any other county in North Britain; and the land ſold of late in this neighbourhood has generally been about 35 years purchaſe. Leaſes of farms are in general for 19 years.

Roads.—The roads hitherto made were done by ſtatute-labour, but are very indifferent. The ſtatute-labour is of late partly commuted; and turnpike roads are making. One of them is to paſs through this pariſh, leaving the great road between Kirkcaldy and Cupar of Fife at the inn called the *Plaiſterers*. It takes a weſtern direction, through the pariſhes of Leſlie, Kinglaſſie, and Auchterderran, and lands the paſſengers on the Queensferry road at the kirk of Beathe. This line of road is already in uſe in the ſummer months; but a free communication through this inland diſtrict would be highly advantageous. The general opinion of the common people is not againſt turnpikes. This pariſh has hitherto been diſtinguiſhed for bad roads, and is inacceſſible on the north for 6 months in the year. Hence the farmers on the oppoſite ſide muſt ſell their commodities at an under rate, being ſhut out from the coaſt towns.

Population.—The number of inhabitants, according to Dr Webſter's ſtate, is 1194; at preſent they are 1200.

Inhabited

Inhabited houſes	293
Eſtabliſhed miniſter	1
Burgher ditto	1
In 1783 the families of the eſtabliſhed church	105
—— Individuals belonging to it	430
—— Families of ſeceders, and other ſectaries	188
—— Individuals belonging to them	770
Heritors, beſides feuers, (only one reſides in the pariſh)	12
People in their families, including themſelves	322
Farmers	47
Families of colliers nearly	31
Cottagers houſes built within theſe 10 years	17
Houſes become uninhabitable	7

There is 1 village called Lochgellie, containing 342 people.

Poor.—There are no poor belonging to this pariſh that are vagrant. The poor are ſupplied in their uſual reſidences. Pride prevents our poor common people from making themſelves burdenſome to the public, which in general they never do but from neceſſity. The number of poor in the monthly liſt at preſent is 22. There are about L. 600 left in legacies, &c. in the management of the ſeſſion; the intereſt of which, with the collections, is applied to the ſupport of the poor. Their ſituation is much better than that of the poor in many of the neighbouring pariſhes. The kirk-ſeſſion give their ſervices *gratis*, (as every where in Scotland), and are from their ſituation well qualified for pointing out the proper objects of charity. The weekly contributions for the poor does not exceed 2 s.

Proviſions and Labour.—There is no weekly market in the pariſh. Kirkcaldy is the chief market. Beef, the long weight,

weight, at an average, is 4½ d. a pound; a hen 1 s.; a dozen eggs 4 d. A day-labourer not retained gets 1 s. a day. When promised work from one person, at one place, throughout the year, he gets 11 d.; but this is not general, and is thought the better bargain for the labourer. The average prices of artificers work differs according to their trade; some get 1 s. 3 d.; some 1 s. 6 d. some 1 s. 8 d. a day.

Annual earnings of a day-labourer, his wife, and three children; deducting four weeks earnings of the man on account of holidays, bad health, attendance on funerals, &c. and excessive bad weather; and four weeks earnings of the woman, on account of holidays, bad health, and lying-in.

To 48 weeks labour of a man at 1 s. a day	L. 14	8	0
To 48 weeks labour of a woman, in spinning, besides taking care of her house and children	3	12	0
To the earnings of 3 children at the age of six, seven, and eight years, nothing.			
	L. 18	0	0

Annual expence of a day-labourer, his wife, and three children.

By 2 pecks oat-meal a week, at 11½ d. per peck	L. 4	19	8
By 2 pecks barley or pease-meal a week, at 7½ d. a peck	3	5	0
By 6 bolls potatoes, at 5 s. a boll	1	10	0
By barley for kail, at 3 lb. a week	0	16	3
By a kail-yard, and a wretched house	0	13	0

By

By milk, at 4 d. a week	L. 0	17	4
By ſalt, cheeſe, and butter	0	12	6
By ſoap for waſhing clothes	0	2	6
By coals in a year, with carriage	1	0	0
By ſhoes to the whole family	1	0	0
By body-clothes to the man	1	10	0
By ditto to the woman and children	1	5	0
By worſted thread for mendings	0	7	0
	L. 17	18	3

The preceding ſtatement is favourable for earnings, from the number of children, which is rather ſmall; and particularly on account of the ages of the children, as at that period of their lives it is ſuppoſed in the calculation that the woman has it in her power to work half work at ſpinning, and yet take care of her houſe and children. The day-labourer of this diſtrict, and his family, are more decently clothed than a family of the ſame deſcription in England, and therefore it is ſomewhat more particularly ſtated than in the Printed Extract accompanying the Queries. The fuel is alſo higher charged. They are obliged to uſe coals, a much finer fuel than that mentioned in the Extract, and, at the loweſt, it amounts to the expence above mentioned; but it ſerves them for light, as well as heat, in the winter ſeaſon. The greateſt evils of their ſituation ariſe from the lowneſs of their diet, and the wretchedneſs of their lodging, which is cold, dark, and dirty; expoſing them to a numerous claſs of diſeaſes incident to ſuch a condition. The meagre food of the labouring man, too, is unequal to oppoſe the effects of inceſſant hard labour upon his conſtitution, and, by this means, his frame is often worn down before the time of Nature's appointment.

That

That people continue to enter voluntarily upon ſuch a hard ſituation, ſhows how far the union of the ſexes, and the love of independence, are principles of human nature; and, from ſuch cauſes, this ſituation is not thought, by the people themſelves, to be wretched, nor without ſome ſhare of comfort. Within theſe laſt twelve years, the wages of a man have riſen from 8 d. to 1 s. without a proportional riſe upon his expence. When this claſs of people have got ſuch additional wages as will enable them to have better lodging, and to have that quantity of animal and other foods, which their labour and the climate require, they will then have nearly their ſhare of human enjoyment About the year 1755, the yearly wages of a domeſtic man-ſervant was L. 28 Scots, of a woman-ſervant L. 16 Scots. The wages of ſervants, when maintained by the employer, in different branches of huſbandry, is now L. 3 Sterling a year for a woman, and L 6 a year for a man The wages of domeſtic ſervants is the ſame. Work-people are rather ſcarce, owing to the drain of wars, and the increaſing induſtry of the country.

General Character of the People.—The inhabitants are very regular in their attendance on public worſhip Formerly they were fond of long church ſervices, and conſidered it as a point of duty to continue long in religious exerciſes. Perhaps the ſervices, though ſhorter than before, are ſtill too long for anſwering the ends of devotion and ſpiritual edification. The people are not illiterate. In common with the reſt of Scotland, the vulgar are, for their ſtation, literate, perhaps, beyond all other nations. Puritanic and abſtruſe divinity come in for a ſufficient ſhare in their little ſtock of books; and it is perhaps peculiar to them, as a people, that they endeavour to form opinions, by reading, as well as by frequent converſation, on ſome very metaphyſical points connected with religion,

gion, and on the deeper doctrines of Chriſtianity. They likewiſe read, occaſionally, a variety of other books unconnected with ſuch ſubjects. The parochial ſchools are by no means ſupplied with ſuch enlightened teachers as thoſe that were formerly inſtrumental in diffuſing this knowledge. No one of good education and ability now accepts of this reduced pittance, where the ſituation is not favourable for procuring lucrative ſcholars: And the village teacher, brought in by the ſubſcription of needy people, is a ſtill more unqualified perſon. In ſuch caſes, the people do not propoſe ſeeking out the beſt, but the cheapeſt. The conſequence will be, that the poorer diſtricts of the country, and the poor claſſes of the people, muſt become more ignorant. Although the pariſh conſiſts wholly of the poorer ranks of ſociety, newſpapers are very generally read and attended to: The deſire for them increaſes; and the reading of them ſeems to be attended with advantage. With regard to the intellectual character of the people: They are deficient in imagination, vivacity, humour, &c.; their apprehenſion and judgment are very good, and they make a decent figure in the common profeſſions of life. With reſpect to their moral and religious character, they have all a profeſſion of religion; but, in the points where their ſituation more immediately leads to temptation, they too frequently and even habitually contradict their profeſſion. Their civil character is excellent: They ſeem in ſome degree capable of reflecting on the advantages of government; and they obey it peaceably, and on principle. They could, however, be eaſily ſtirred up to ſedition in matters of religion. There is one Burgher meeting in this pariſh. The religious toleration granted ſeems to anſwer, in this diſtrict, the full ends of good government and public utility: It could hardly ſtand on a better footing. Seceſſion now begins to diminiſh; and the

bitterneſs of contending ſects is greatly ſubſiding: This partly proceeds from the novelty being over; partly from the great variety of ſects which have taken place; and partly, it is hoped, from more enlightened views of true religion. As to holidays for recreation or merry-making, the people have only one in the year, called Handſel-Monday; and even the manner in which this is employed ſhews the ſober mindedneſs of the people. Inſtead of meeting in large aſſemblies for diverſions, each family collects its own kindred from the different parts of the diſtrict, provides a feaſt, and ſpends the time in eating, drinking, and converſation. The holidays, beſides Sabbaths, for religious ſervices, in the Eſtabliſhment, are three days in the year; among the Seceders ſix. The people have ſcarcely any ſports after they are grown up. Among the infinite advantages of the Reformation, this ſeems to have been one diſadvantage attending it, that, owing to the gloomy rigour of ſome of the leading actors, mirth, ſport, and chearfulneſs, were decried among a people already by nature rather phlegmatic. Since that, mirth and vice have, in their apprehenſion, been confounded together. Some of the ſectaries puniſh attendance on penny weddings, and public dancing, with a reproof from the pulpit, in the preſence of the congregation: So that the people muſt either dance by themſelves, or let it alone. This cenſure, in ſeveral congregations, is falling into diſuſe. There are a few perſons, called *tinkers* and *horners*, half-reſident, and half-itinerant, who are feared and ſuſpected by the community. Two of them were baniſhed within theſe ſix years. Strangers complain of the pronunciation in this diſtrict being drawling, and that it impreſſes them with a belief that the perſon ſpeaking is ſour and ill tempered. The inhabitants are improving in their mode of living and dreſs. Intemperance from ſpiritous liquors is by no means frequent among them; but, unluckily,

luckily, the uſe of whiſky is increaſing, and that of beer diminiſhing. The blue bonnet, a national badge, is diſappearing rapidly. The prevalent colour of the mens dreſs is blue.

Church, School, &c.—For ſeven years paſt the ſtipend has, at an average, been L. 100, including the glebe, which is large, beſide the houſe and garden. Claud Boſwell, Eſq; of Balmuto, is patron. A new manſe was built in 1784, and a new church in 1789. The income of the ſchoolmaſter may be about L. 10, independent of the ſcholars fees, which are from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. a quarter; the number of ſcholars from 50 to 60. There are, beſides, two private ſchools: The ſcholars at both, taken together, may amount to 80.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is moiſt, but not unhealthy: Fogs are not frequent, nor of nearly ſo long continuance as in the ſouthern parts of the iſland. There is a mineral well at the bottom of the rocks formerly mentioned, recorded in Camden's Britannia, and Gordon's Itinerarium, for its medicinal qualities; but it has not been reſorted to for ſome time paſt. The lake called Lochgellie is 3 miles in circumference; that called Camilla about 2 miles. There is a common free-ſtone quarry for houſe-building, &c. There is peat in the pariſh, but it is little uſed for fuel. Coal is to be dug in every corner of the pariſh, and ſcarcely exceeds a farthing a ſtone at the pit mouth. There is likewiſe great abundance of lime-ſtone, which, when burnt and ſlaked, ſells at 7d. a boll. The uſe of it in agriculture is increaſing; but not ſo much here as in other places where the price is perhaps double or triple. Induſtry is increaſing; and there are very convenient ſituations in which manufactures might be eſtabliſhed. Several weavers living at Lochgellie, and neighbourhood, connect themſelves with the manufactures of Kirkcaldy. There is a thriving

ving bleachfield here. The inhabitants have no predilection either for the army or the navy; but more of them go to the latter. They enjoy, in a tolerable degree, the comforts and advantages of ſociety. The muſic here is between the quick ſprightly muſic of the north, and the ſlow plaintive muſic of the ſouth. A peculiar ſourneſs of aſpect is obſerved in the people here, and a ſeeming unwillingneſs to converſe with, or ſhew expreſſions of good will to ſtrangers.

There are 6 alehouſes, or inns, chiefly ſupported by the tryſtes at Lochgellie, i. e. fairs or markets where no cuſtoms are exacted on the commodities ſold; the chief of which is black cattle. The number of Lochgellie tryſtes is 5 in the year.

A collier earns, or can earn, about 10s. a week. The coal-works juſt now working in this pariſh draw for coals L. 1700 a year; L. 500 of which is for coal exported, the reſt for the conſumption of the neighbourhood. Private families here never brew their own beer; but private baking is ſtill in uſe. There are but 2 public bake-houſes in the pariſh.

The advantages and diſadvantages of employing unmarried hired ſervants, or married cottagers, are, to the immediate employers, pretty nearly balanced: A mixture of each, where the farm is large, is moſt convenient. The preference beginning to be ſhewn for married cottagers is far more beneficial in its conſequences. The beſt ſervants for huſbandry are raiſed from theſe cottagers families; otherwiſe they become ſcarce, dear, and unſkilful.

This neighbourhood and county were long diſtinguiſhed for excellent pigeons and well ſtocked pigeon-houſes, but which,

which, of late, have been falling off. It has been doubted whether our law authorising pigeon-houses is not, in some degree, contrary to natural equity; as it does not seem reasonable that any one should keep a house furnished with a multitude of animals, over which he has no government, and which prey on his neighbour's corn as freely as on his own, while he alone has the profit. It has also been doubted, whether, on the whole, pigeons are not detrimental to the public, by devouring more corn than the profit of them is worth; it having been stated as a fact, that a pigeon-house of an ordinary size, moderately stocked, will consume 200 quarters of seed in a year.

As an instance of remarkable industry, it may be mentioned, that a young man of this parish went into the north of England as a labourer, and laid by, out of his earnings, in the course of somewhat more than 20 years, L. 400 Sterling. He then returned to his native parish, purchased and furnished a pretty extensive feu, upon which he has lived with his family 28 years.

NUM-

NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF KINLOSS.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN HOYES.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE antient and modern name of this parish is Kinloss, derived from *Kain*, a Head, and *Loch*; i. e. the Head of the Loch; Kinloss being situated on the head of the Bay of Findhorn. This parish is in the shire of Elgin and Forres; in the presbytery of Forres, and synod of Moray. It is of a square form, being between three and four miles long and broad. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Alves; on the south and south-west by Rafford and Forres; and on the north by the Moray Firth. It is a very flat level country. The soil is various; in some places light and sandy; in others a rich and deep clay, moss, and loam, make up a considerable part of the soil; and all of it, when well managed, produces good crops of grain of every kind. This parish, being flat, is but poorly supplied with good water; and most of the springs taste of minerals. The shore is flat and sandy. The fish caught here are mostly haddocks and whittings, and, in the season, cod, skate, and ling, which are all sold in the country, and at Forres, at about 1 d. or 1½ d. a pound.

Climate

Climate and Diſtempers.—The air is ſharp, dry, and healthy. The moſt prevalent diſtempers are cutaneous diſeaſes, ſcurvy, and rheumatiſm; owing, perhaps, to hard labour, the ſharpneſs of the air, a ſpare or fiſh diet, and want of cleanlineſs.

Population.—The amount of the inhabitants of this pariſh is 234 families, which contain 1031 perſons, being nearly 4½ to each family. There are 4 heritors, 40 farmers, 56 fiſhermen and ſailors, 9 ſhoemakers, 6 weavers, 6 carpenters and wrights, 2 taylors, 2 ſmiths, 2 millers, 2 maſons, 2 coopers, 1 merchant, 1 brewer, 1 thread manufacturer, 10 day labourers, and 6 traveling beggars. Dr Webſter's ſtate of the inhabitants is 1191. The annual average of births from 1700 to 1720, is 25 males and 21 females; from the beginning of the year 1779 to the beginning of 1789, is 29. In this laſt period were born 147 males, and 145 females. The decreaſe of population is owing to the ſpirit of traveling, and the engroſſing of farms.

Church and Stipend.—The manſe was built in 1751; the church in 1765. The value of the living is uncertain; a proceſs of augmentation having been carried on ſince the year 1781. The patrons are Lord Moray and Miſs Brodie of Lethen.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are no rivers in this pariſh but the Findhorn, which runs ſouth and weſt, and falls into the Moray Firth at the town of Findhorn. This river abounds with ſalmon, which, in the ſpring, and beginning of ſummer, are boiled at Findhorn, and kitted and ſent to the London market. Freſh ſalmon is ſold here at 4 d. a pound.

The

The only harbour in this parish is Findhorn, which has a bar that is continually changing, and prevents ships of great burden from entering; so that the trade is carried on in small merchant vessels, or sloops. The imports are merchant goods, sugar, wine, porter, bark, &c. The exports, oats and barley, salmon, linen yarn, &c.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF OATHLAW.

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS RAIKER.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE antient name of this parish seems to have been Finhaven. It is situated in the county of Angus, presbytery of Forfar, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is 5 miles long, and about 2 broad. It is bounded by the parish of Tannadie on the north; Aberlemno and Rescobie on the south; Carraldstone on the east; and Kirriemuir on the west. The general appearance of the country is flat. The air is moist.

Hills.—The hill of Finhaven lies on the south side of the parish, in a direction from east to west, for the space of 10 miles. On the top of this hill are the remains of an old castle: The foundation of the whole of it is yet visible. Its dimensions are 137 yards in length, and 37 in breadth, nearly in the form of a parallelogram. The foundation seems to have been built without mortar. The ruins discover something like vitriable stones, and plainly appear to have undergone the action of fire. It is said that the family of Finhaven were wont to retire to this castle in times of danger. There are evident marks of a well on the west end of it. The height of the

hill is about 500 yards from the level of the country. At the foot of it, immediately ſouth of the caſtle, there is an appearance of a crater of a volcano, and all around ſomething that reſembles lava.

Rivers.—The river Eſk runs through the pariſh; and, it is thought, might eaſily be made navigable from the Kirktown of Tannadice to Montroſe, about 12 miles diſtant. In its preſent ſtate, it runs in a ſerpentine direction through a very fertile country. Formerly it abounded with ſalmon; but, on account of the number of crubs, there are now few or none. The rivulet called Lemno has lately been turned into a canal, which runs the whole length of the pariſh, from eaſt to weſt, and biſects it. It might eaſily be made navigable for ſmall boats. It joins the river Eſk below the old caſtle of Finhaven.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this pariſh is believed to have been nearly the ſame for ſeveral years paſt.

Souls	430
Males	217
Females	213
Annual average of births	10
——— of deaths	4
——— of marriages	3
Perſons under 10 years of age	110
Between 10 and 20	97
Between 20 and 50	160
Between 50 and 70	50
Above 70	13
Heritors (none of them reſide)	6
Farmers	34
	Families

Families conſiſting of 1 perſon	1
2	1
3	4
4	3
5	3
6	3
7	1
8	6
9	1
10	1
11	2
13	3
15	1
17	2
18	1
19	1
21	1
23	1
28	1
33	1
44	1

Land rent of the pariſh about L. 1178 Sterling.

Ploughs	34
Carts about	70

Poor.—The number of the poor of this pariſh is, at an average, two. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief is about L. 15 : 16 : 8 Sterling. The number relieved at preſent is from two to four. The elders of the kirk-ſeſſion, in the different parts of the pariſh, give information concerning the ſtate of the poor. In 1782, the kirk-ſeſſion purchaſed a ſmall quantity of corn, made it into meal, and divided it among poor families.

Price

Price of Labour and Proviſions.— The increaſe of labourers wages in huſbandry, ſince the year 1740, has been very great. For 20 years after that period, their wages were from L. 2 to L. 3 a year; at preſent they are from L. 5 to L. 10 a year, and maintained, as formerly, in the family. Women ſervants wages, during the period already mentioned, were L. 1 : 10 : 0; they are now from L. 3 to L. 4. Day labourers, at the ſame period, got 2½ d.; at preſent they get from 8 d. to 10 d. excluſive of victuals. Harveſt wages for the ſeaſon are from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 : 0; by the day 1 s. and victuals. Oatmeal is the principal food of the labouring people. The price of it, from 1740 to 1760, was about 8 s. and 10 s. 6 d. a boll; at preſent, and for ſome years paſt, it has been from 12 s. to 14 s. The general mode of living was much the ſame at both periods. Butter is from 6 d. to 9 d. a pound. Cheeſe from 5 s. to 6 s. a ſtone.

Stipend.— The money ſtipend is L. 500 Scots; and there are 2 chalders of victual. The manſe, offices, and garden, are eſtimated at L. 6 Sterling, and the glebe at L. 4. The patron of the pariſh is Lord Aboyne.

Antiquities — There is a veſtige of a camp, ſuppoſed to be Roman. Its dimenſions are 1200 yards in length, and 600 in breadth. There are 2 tumuli in it, which have never been opened. According to tradition, it was part of a great foreſt, called the Foreſt of Claton, which extended from Finhaven to Kirriemuir, about the diſtance of 6 miles. The ſite of the camp is now a well cultivated farm, called Battle-dykes. The names given to the other farm houſes on the foreſt are deſcriptive of its former ſituation, ſuch as Birkenbuſh, Drakemire, Forreſter-Seat, King's-Seat, Wolf-Law, &c.

NUM-

NUMBER L.

PARISH OF GAMRIE.

By the Rev. Mr WILSON.

Origin of the Name.

IT has long been a general report, and the prevailing tradition in this country, that, ſome time before the year 1004, in which the church of Gamrie is ſaid to have been built, (and there is at this day the date 1004 on the ſteeple), that the Thane of Buchan purſued the Danes to the precipice or brow of the hill above the church, and there defeated them with great ſlaughter. Several of their ſkulls (moſt likely of their chiefs who had fallen in battle) were built into the church wall, where they remain entire: From hence it came to be called by ſome the Kirk of Sculls. In the Gaelic language, the word *Kemri*, from which, probably, Gamrie is derived, ſignifies *running ſtep.* or *running leap.* And this derivation ſeems a natural one; becauſe, from the ſituation of the hill, which is one of the higheſt on this part of the coaſt, and very ſteep on one ſide, it muſt have been a running ſkirmiſh, and very fatal to the vanquiſhed In ſome old regiſters, the name of the pariſh is written Ghaemrie. On the ſaid eminence, above the kirk of Gamrie, at the eaſt end of one of the moſt level and extenſive plains in Buchan, are a number of veſtiges of encampments, which at this day are called by the name of *bloody pots*, or *bloody pits.*

Situation,

Situation, Extent, &c.— The church and manse of Gamrie are built in a very extraordinary and romantic situation, on a sloping piece of ground in the middle of a hill, and not a mile from the town and harbour of Gardenstown. By two headlands, called Gamrie and Troup-head, which project a considerable way into the sea, a beautiful bay is formed, where there is fine anchoring ground, and vessels can ride in safety. At high water, a person could fling a stone into the sea from the church; and looking out of it, it has the appearance, to a stranger, as if the sea washed its foundations. The church is built, after the manner of some very old edifices, with unslacked lime, and with very thick walls; and, although it has already stood upwards of 700 years, it may, if the roof be kept in proper repair, last for hundreds of years to come. The north side of Gamrie parish is bounded by that part of the German Ocean called the Moray Firth; on the east by the parish of Aberdour; on the south by the parishes of Monwhiter and King Edward; and on the west by the river Dovern, which separates the parish of Gamrie from Banff. This parish stretches 9½ miles along the sea-coast, which is a very bold one It is almost a continued chain of stupendous rocks, in many places perpendicular, and 200 yards above the sea It is between 3 and 4 miles broad. Gamrie parish lies in the county of Banff, presbytery of Turriff, and synod of Aberdeen. The soil, in many places, is very fertile, and in others as barren; and, though much has been done of late years, there is still great scope for improvement. The hilly ground is in general covered with heath, and in some places with a coarse kind of grass, on which sheep and young cattle are fed. Sheep, indeed, are very much banished from the parish. When Mr Wilson first came to the parish, there was scarcely a farmer who had not a flock; but now there are only two or three that have any at all. This is in a great measure

meaſure owing to the introduction of ſown graſs, and the difficulty there is in winter herding, unleſs the practice was general.

Sea Coaſt, and Fiſheries.—On this coaſt a variety of different kinds of fiſh are caught, viz. ling, cod, haddocks, whitings, turbot, ſkate, &c. with which this country uſed to be remarkably well ſupplied, and a conſiderable quantity of them, when dried, were carried to the Firth of Forth, and ſold there. From the beſt information, it appears that the fiſhermen in this pariſh have ſometimes received for their ſalt fiſh L. 250 annually. Of late years, the fiſhing has been ſo remarkably poor, (to what cauſe it is perhaps difficult to ſay, but moſt likely one principal reaſon is, the immenſe quantities of ſea-dogs, a kind of ſhark, with which this coaſt has been infeſted), that there has hardly been fiſh ſufficient to ſupply the markets at home. Of conſequence, it is to be ſuppoſed they have riſen much in value. Long after the preſent miniſter was ſettled in the pariſh, he could have purchaſed haddocks at one penny and three half-pence a dozen, which now coſt a ſhilling to eighteen pence; and in proportion for other kinds of fiſh, and every other article of food. On this coaſt, great quantities of ſea weed, called ware, are thrown up on the ſhore, which the farmers lay on the ground, and find very profitable in raiſing crops of barley. In this pariſh, it is laid on with a very ſparing hand, owing to the ſteepneſs of the coaſt, and the bad acceſs to the ſhore. Conſiderable quantities alſo of this ſea-weed are cut off from the rocks, for the purpoſe of making kelp. At an average, about 30 tons are made annually, which ſell from L. 3 to L. 5 a ton. On the river Dovern, which ſeparates the pariſhes of Banff and Gamrie, is an exceeding good ſalmon fiſhery, the property of Lord Fife, which lets for L. 1000

L 1000 *per annum.* The salmon are all cured in the town of Macduff. The pickled fish are all sent to the London market, and what are salted are generally exported to France and Spain.

Mineral Springs, Quarries, &c.—Near the sea-coast, and in the neighbourhood of Macduff, is a pretty good mineral spring, called the Well of Farlair, which has been useful in gravellish complaints. Of late years it has come into considerable repute, and a number of people resort to it annually. In this parish, upon the estate of Melrose, now the property of Lord Fife, is a very good slate-quarry. The quantity annually made has been various, depending on the demand, and the number of hands employed. The slates are of a good quality, of a beautiful blue colour, not inferior to the Easdale slate, only thicker, larger, and make a heavier roof. Quarriers are commonly paid by the piece, which is certainly the best way for themselves and their employers. Common day-labourers usually receive from 7 d. to 9 d. a day in winter, and from 9 d. to 1 s. in summer.

Natural Curiosities —Near the east end of the parish, and not far from the house of Troup, are three great natural curiosities. 1. A perpendicular rock of very great extent, full of shelves, and possessed by thousands of birds called Kitty-weaks. These arrive in the beginning of spring, and leave it again towards the end of August, after they have brought forth their young. Some people are fond of eating the young Kitty's; but the shooting of them is a favourite diversion every year. The season for this is commonly the last week of July. Whither these birds go in winter is not known; most probably it is to some place upon the coast of Norway. 2dly, A cave, or rather den, about 50 feet deep, 60 long,

and

and 40 broad, from which there is a ſubterraneous paſſage to the ſea, about 80 yards long, through which the waves are driven with great violence in a northerly ſtorm, and occaſion a ſmoke to aſcend from the den. Hence it has got the name of Hell's Lumb, i. e. Hell's Chimney. 3. Another ſubterraneous paſſage, through a peninſula of about 150 yards long from ſea to ſea, through which a man can with difficulty creep. At the north end of this narrow paſſage is a cave about 20 feet high, 30 broad, and 150 long, containing not leſs than 90,000 cubic feet. The whole is ſupported by immenſe columns of rock, is exceedingly grand, and has a wonderfully fine effect, after a perſon has crept through the narrow paſſage. This place has got the name of the Needle's Eye. There are in the pariſh ſeveral tumuli. Not many years ago, one of them, in the neighbourhood of Macduff, was opened; and there was found in it an urn, containing a conſiderable number of ſmall human bones.

Population.—The population of the pariſh is nearly double ſince the year 1732. At the above period the pariſh contained 1600 ſouls, and now nearly 3000. About the years 1704 and 1705, it appears by the Regiſters that the number of births annually, at an average, were then 45; and, for ſeveral years paſt, they have not been under 60. The number of deaths cannot be aſcertained ſo far back. About 30 years ago they were from 10 to 12, and for 7 years paſt nearly 20 annually. About 30 years ago there were from 12 to 14 marriages annually, and, for 7 years paſt, not leſs than 26.

In this pariſh, many inſtances of longevity might be mentioned. It is only a few years ſince a fiſherman in Macduff died at the age of 109; and there are living at preſent ſeveral perſons 90 years old and upwards. Mr Willſon is in his 97th

year; and last autumn, at the conclusion of the harvest, the age of him, and the two servants that assisted in taking in his crop, amounted in all to 257; and it is worthy remarking that one of these has been his servant 50 years. Mr Wilson was the first that introduced turnips and potatoes into the parish. He had a few of them in his garden, which the people in coming to the church used to look at as a great curiosity; and it was thought, at that time, that none but a gardener could raise them. It was long before the method of hoeing came to be thought of. Being sown thick, and hand-weeded, they came to no size. Another singularity deserves notice, viz. that, when he came to Gamrie, there was not a watch in church except the laird's and the minister's.

Church.—The minister's living is, *communibus annis*, L. 100 Sterling; the crown patron. The present incumbent was settled in the year 1732. He has been a widower for ten years past; has had 14 children; ten of whom (five sons and five daughters) he has lived to see well settled in the world.

Poor.—In such a popular parish, it is to be supposed there will be several poor, and accordingly between 50 and 60 receive charity out of the parish funds; and of these the year 1782 added several to the list. The weekly collection at Gamrie and Macduff is at an average 14 s. L. 450, which is at interest, belongs to the poor of this parish.

Rental.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 5489 : 6 : 8 Scots. The present real rent, exclusive of fisheries, is nearly L. 1680 Sterling.

Towns, Villages, and Miscellaneous Observations.—The principal causes of the increase of population are, the number of fishing

fiſhing towns on the coaſt, the breaking of large farms into ſmaller ones, the encouragement given by the heritors to improve waſte ground, and their endeavouring to introduce a better mode of culture. The principal town in the pariſh is Macduff, the property of Lord Fife. In 1732 there were only a few fiſhermen's houſes in Macduff, but now there are ſeveral well laid out ſtreets, and 1000 ſouls in the town. The harbour, on which his Lordſhip has already laid out upwards of L. 5000, will, when finiſhed, be one of the beſt in the Moray Firth. There are ten veſſels from 60 to 120 tons burden, and 6 fiſhing boats, belonging to Macduff. Three of them are in the London trade, two in the eaſt country trade, and the others trade moſt commonly to the Firth of Forth.

Since the great increaſe of population in this part of the pariſh, his Lordſhip has erected a Chapel of Eaſe in Macduff, for the accommodation of the inhabitants, who are nearly ſix miles from their pariſh church, and gives a ſalary to a qualified clergyman to preach and diſpenſe the ordinances of religion among them.

On the eaſt end of this pariſh, there are very near to one another two other ſmall towns, Gardenſton and Crovie, both the property of Lord Gardenſton, and not far from his houſe at Troup. The town of Gardenſton contains nearly 300 ſouls, and Crovie 100. In theſe two places are the ſame number of veſſels and fiſhing-boats as in Macduff, only the veſſels are of a ſmaller ſize. Lords Fife and Gardenſton are the only heritors. Lord Fife does not reſide in the pariſh, but one of his principal ſeats (Duff-houſe) is very near it, being only about an Engliſh mile from Macduff. His Lordſhip has paid the greateſt attention to the improvement of his eſtates, and the good of the country, by encouraging, incloſing,

incloſing, binding his tenants to have yearly a certain quantity of their ground in turnip, ſo much in fallow, and ſo much laid down in graſs ſeeds. Theſe regulations were highly proper and neceſſary ſome years ago, becauſe people are led in chains by habit; and it is by ſlow degrees, and well digeſted plans, they are made to depart from eſtabliſhed cuſtoms: But, now that the propriety of theſe regulations are ſeen, it would be difficult to make the farmers have ſuch ſmall quantities of turnip, &c. as it was neceſſary at firſt to reſtrict them to. Lord Fife has alſo converted the whole cuſtoms and ſervices (uſually called bonnage) at a moderate rate. This is of the utmoſt importance to the tenants. Not many years ago, many of them paid nearly one-half of their rent in fowls, eggs, ſheep, &c. delivered in kind, and the labour of themſelves, their ſervants, horſes, in ſeed-time and harveſt, carriage of peats, and many other works in the different ſeaſons throughout the year, when called for; by which means they were often obliged to plough, dung, and harrow their landlord's ground, and loſe the ſeaſon for their own. Planting is a mode of improvement in which no perſon in this country has been more ſucceſsful than the Earl of Fife. His Lordſhip has planted not leſs than from 7000 to 8000 acres on his different eſtates, which he continues yearly to increaſe; and at this moment the whole is in a very thriving ſtate. An account of the various kinds of trees, and the method taken to rear them, will be ſeen in Young's Annals of Agriculture, and the Minutes of the Society of Arts and Commerce. The moſt conſiderable plantation in this pariſh is what is called the Tore of Troup. There are upwards of 600 acres planted with trees of various kinds, in a thriving ſtate. Theſe were reared chiefly by the direction of the late Mr Garden of Troup, and begun by his grandfather. Mr Garden, who is now ſucceeded by his brother Lord Garden-

ſton,

ſton, was unanimouſly elected member of parliament for the county of Aberdeen, during three ſucceeding ſeſſions of parliament; he conſtantly reſided at Troup, in this pariſh, excepting the time he attended parliamentary buſineſs, and paid great attention to the improvement of his eſtate, and the good of his country. He never gave a ſhorter leaſe than for a life; and to ſeveral of his tenants he gave very long leaſes, viz. a life, two nineteen years, and a life. He was not like many others, who, when they ſaw a tenant thriving, thought he had too good a bargain, and would demand a very high rent at the next letting. It was his joy to ſee his tenants carrying on their improvements, and proſpering by their honeſt induſtry. Nor, when any of his leaſes fell vacant, was it ever known that he did not prefer the tenant's own ſon, and continue him in the poſſeſſion, if he was diſpoſed to follow the ſame occupation with his father. And it may be ſafely ſaid, that, owing to the encouragement given by Lord Fife and Mr Garden, there are few tenants in the north of Scotland more thriving than in the pariſh of Gamrie. In the year 1782, when many others were not able to pay their rents, ſcarcity was not much felt except by the pooreſt claſs.

The language ſpoken in this pariſh is the Scottiſh, with an accent peculiar to the north country. There is no Erſe.

The fuel uſed in the pariſh is partly coals and partly peats. The latter has of late years become very ſcarce; and coals are every day much more commonly uſed; which, owing to a partial and oppreſſive tax, coſt very dear, and is a very great hindrance to improvement in this part of the country. It is certainly very unfair, and highly abſurd, that this neceſſary article, which at any rate muſt be conſiderably higher in price to conſumers in the North, from the expence of carriage,

riage, than it is to thoſe on the other ſide of the Redhead, ſhould alſo be loaded with a tax from which the ſouthern inhabitants are exempted: And it is to be hoped the wiſdom and juſtice of the legiſlature will ſoon provide a remedy, either by a total repeal, or by making the tax payable at the pit, which would thereby become general, and be much leſs partially felt.

NUM-

NUMBER LI.

PARISH OF GASK.

By the Rev. Mr DAVID KEMP.

Name, Situation, &c.

GASK, the name which the parish has had for time immemorial, is Gaelic, and signifies, it is said, in that language, *a Slope*. As the parish is situated on a rising ground, the name is descriptive of its situation. Gask is in the county of Perth, presbytery of Auchterarder, and synod of Perth and Stirling; is nearly a square, each side of which is somewhat more than two English miles. The ground slopes on each side of the Roman causeway, which runs through the middle of the parish upon the highest ground; the south slope is a pleasant fertile bank, laid out into cultivated fields, and bounded by the river Earn, which bounds the parish on the south; on the north slope are plantations of fir, oak, birch, &c. interspersed with corn-fields and pastures. Gask is bounded on the south by Dunning, on the west by Trinity Gask, on the north by Maderty and Methven, and on the east by Tippermuir and Forteviot.

Population.—The population is much the same as for half a century past, but has rather increased since 1745. In 1790, there were in the parish 486 individuals, of whom 141 were

under

under ten years of age; and of the 345 above that age, 164 were males, and 181 females. Of the total number, 335 belonged to the eſtabliſhed church, 140 were ſeceders, and 11 of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion. There are 110 inhabited houſes diſperſed over the pariſh, of which 1 is occupied by an heritor, 22 by farmers, 41 by carpenters, wrights, maſons, ſhoemakers, and taylors, 12 by perpendiclers *, 13 by day-labourers, 15 by ſingle women, 4 by married ſervants, and the remaining 2 by the miniſter and the ſchoolmaſter. The number of male ſervants is 48, and of female ſervants 40. There are, on an average, 10 baptiſed, 6 buried, and 5 couple married in a year.

Stipend, Poor, &c.. The living is L. 43 in money, 2 chalders of meal, 1 chalder of barley, and a glebe of 4½ acres. The manſe was built in 1750; the kirk is old, but kept in good repair by the heritors. The king is patron. The average number of poor upon the funds for theſe 25 years is 6; and the amount of collections and donations for their ſupport is L. 15 annually.

Produce, &c.—The pariſh produces wheat, barley, peaſe, potatoes, turnips, ſown and paſture graſs; and ſupplies itſelf with all ſorts of grain, beſide ſelling conſiderable quantities to Perth, Crieff, &c. There are pretty large beds of marl here. Free-ſtone and grey ſlate abound, and are eaſily quarried.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is dry and healthy. The Earn, which forms the ſouthern boundary, is a conſiderable river, though not navigable, producing ſalmon, trout, and

* Cottagers, who hold a ſmall piece of ground of the tenant.

and pike. There are 131 horſes, 648 head of cattle, and 50 ſheep in the pariſh; of wild quadrupeds there are foxes, badgers, polecats, and rabbits; of birds, partridges, woodcocks, black-cocks, ſnipes, &c. A maſon's wages are 1 s. 4 d. a wright's 10 d. a taylor's 6 d. and a day-labourer's 6 d. a day, with victuals. The fuel uſed here is coal and peat; the former coſts 1½ d. a ſtone. The air is dry and healthy.

Antiquities.—A Roman cauſeway runs through the middle of the pariſh, on the higheſt ground; it is 20 feet broad, compoſed of rough ſtones, cloſely laid together, and points weſtward to a camp, ſtill diſtinguiſhable, in the pariſh of Muthil, and eaſtward to another, alſo viſible, in the pariſh of Scone. This cauſeway is in entire preſervation, as the proprietor of the adjacent grounds, though he incloſed the fields on each ſide with ſtone-dikes, did not ſuffer a ſtone to be taken from the road. Along the cauſeway are ſtations capable of containing 12 or 20 men; they are incloſed by ditches, yet very diſtinct, and ſeem to have been deſigned for the accommodation of the overſeers of the work. Within Gaſk's policy, in this pariſh, veſtiges of two Roman camps, one on the ſouth, and the other on the north of the cauſeway, are ſtill viſible; and the ditches, with the Praetorium, are diſtinct, though the ground is planted with fir. One of theſe camps ſeems to have been capable of containing 300 men, and the other half that number.

NUMBER LII.

UNITED PARISHES OF LISMORE AND APPIN.

By the Rev. Mr DONALD M'NICOL.

Origin of the Name.

KILLMULUAG, and Iſland Mund, were the old names of theſe pariſhes, and the only names by which they are deſigned in the Teind records at Edinburgh. *Killmuluag* literally ſignifies the Cell or Chapel of St Muluag, a ſaint of the ſeventh century, who was the firſt dignitary here, and probably laid the foundation of the cathedral. *Iſland Mund* ſignifies the Iſland of St Mungo, a ſmall iſland in Loch Leven in Glenco, dedicated to that ſaint. The iſland has been long the common cemetery, or burying place, of the inhabitants of Glenco. *Liſmore*, the modern name of this pariſh, ſignifies large, or extenſive gardens. *Lis*, or *Lias*, in the Celtic language, denotes a garden.

Extent.—The extent of this pariſh will hardly be credited by an inhabitant of the ſouth of Scotland, being, from the ſouth-weſt end of Liſmore to the extreme part of Kenlochbeg, to the north-eaſt in Appin, 63 miles long, by 10, and in ſome places 16, broad. It is interſected by conſiderable

derable arms of the ſea, and comprehends the countries of Liſmore, Airds, Straith of Appin, Durror, Glencreren, Glenco, and Kingerloch: The laſt is 9 computed miles long, ſituated in the north ſide of Linneheloch, an arm of the ſea about 3 leagues over, which divides it from Liſmore. This united pariſh is bounded by the ſeas that divide it from Ardchattan and Killmore to the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt; by Glenurchy or Clachandyſart on the eaſt, at the King's Houſe; by Killmalie on the north-eaſt; by Suineart, a part of the pariſh of Ardnamurchan, on the north-weſt; by Morvein on the weſt; and by the Iſland of Mull, and the great Weſtern Ocean, on the weſt and ſouth-weſt.

Situation and Surface.—This pariſh is ſituated in the ſhire and ſynod of Argyle, and preſbytery of Lorn. In a pariſh of this prodigious extent, the ſoil muſt be various. The Iſland of Liſmore, where the miniſter reſides, is 10 miles long, and from a mile to a mile and a half, or two miles broad. It is founded totally on lime-ſtone rock. The ſurface is moſtly very rugged and uneven, by the interſection of the rocks. The ſoil is rich, conſiſting of black ſoft loam, formed from the ſurface of the lime-ſtone mouldered down, and produces much grain. The pariſh of Appin is a happy mixture of ſoil, equally ſuited to corn and graſs; but by far the greateſt part of this extenſive pariſh is mountainous, and well adapted for ſheep. There is very little grain raiſed in Kingerloch, or even in the higher parts of Appin, ſince ſheep ſtocks have been found beneficial. Many of the ſheep farms are very extenſive *, and, conſidering the height of the hills, produce excellent graſs, and, of courſe, very good ſheep, perhaps among the beſt in theſe weſtern diſtricts.

* One of them is 18 Scots miles long.

diſtricts. There are few hills in the Highlands where the graſs grows higher up towards the tops than in theſe mountains. The very ſummits of them all are rocky. A very ſmall proportion of the land in Kingerloch and Appin is now in tillage.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The climate here, like all the countries expoſed to the great Atlantic Ocean, is generally moiſt and damp; the two laſt years have been more remarkably moiſt than any in the memory of this generation. A great deal of rain falls here, but there are ſeldom ſuch floods, or heavy falls, as in the ſouth, except a few thunder ſhowers in very warm ſummers. There is ſeldom ſuch deep ſnow here, or of ſuch long continuance, as in the ſouth; nor is the froſt generally ſo intenſe, though arms of the ſea have been known to freeze over. Few local or epidemical diſtempers prevail here. The rheumatiſm, the general complaint of all moiſt climates, is very common in theſe parts: It is rather matter of ſurpriſe that it is not more frequent, conſidering the dampneſs of moſt of the common people's houſes, and how much the inhabitants are expoſed to rain and cold; eſpecially as their ordinary mode of living is not very luxurious. Fevers and fluxes ſometimes prevail among the country people; and colds and coughs are very frequent in ſevere winters and ſprings. Agues are almoſt unknown here. Within theſe two or three years, the jaundice is become very frequent in this and ſome neighbouring pariſhes. Many of the inhabitants live to a great age. During the reſidence of the preſent incumbent, many inſtances of longevity have appeared. Many live to the age of 84, and 85, ſome to 90, 94, and 96, and even to 100 years. One man died laſt year in Appin at the age of 105. In the year 1744, the preſent incumbent ſaw a woman in Appin who was allowed to be

be 116. She then ſat in a very erect poſture, ſpinning at a rock or diſtaff. Innoculation is beginning to gain ground among the common people, though ſome of them ſtill retain violent prejudices againſt it. The inhabitants are, on the whole, abundantly healthy, owing, probably, in part to their not living pent up in towns or villages, or being more or leſs employed in ſedentary occupations. They live moſtly in houſes detached from each other; and are induſtrious, chearful, and conſtantly engaged in active employments in the open air, which greatly tends to the preſervation of their health. The conſtant ſea-breezes likewiſe prove very favourable to their conſtitutions. The inhabitants of Liſmore have univerſally the benefit of as fine freſh water ſprings, iſſuing from lime-ſtone rocks, as any country can boaſt of. When they engage in ſowing or reaping, they often work very keenly; and, in rowing their ſmall open boats, they often over-exert themſelves, to the great detriment of their health. The military ardour of all Highlanders is a well known characteriſtic.

Rivers.—The rivers Creren, Co, or Conn, (the Fingalian Cona, a beautiful romantic river), the river of Coinich in Kingerloch, with thoſe of Durror, Bailicheliſh, Laroch, and Leven, are the moſt conſiderable. Moſt of theſe contain ſalmon, more or leſs, and all of them yellow, or moſs and ſea trout, in the proper ſeaſons. None of the trouts are ever ſold; and few of the ſalmon are ſold in the country; when they are, they fetch 2 d. and 3 d. a pound. There are ſeveral freſh water lakes in theſe pariſhes, containing abundance of fine trouts; particularly three lakes in Liſmore, two of which contain plenty of fine yellow trouts. About 50 or 60 years ago, there were ſome ſea trouts carried to theſe lakes, the breed of which preſerve their diſtinction perfectly

fectly clear to this day. They retain their ſhining ſilver ſcales, though they have no communication with the ſea; their fleſh is as red as that of any ſalmon, and their taſte is totally different from that of the yellow trouts. Another ſmall lake in the iſland contains large eels, but no trouts. Whales are frequently ſeen about Liſmore in ſummer and harveſt, when they are in purſuit of the ſhoals of herrings that paſs by to Fort William and Lochial. A few herrings are ſometimes caught in this neighbourhood; but they ſeldom remain in the bays long enough to be caught in great numbers. Seals, or ſea calves, are caught frequently with nets on ſunk rocks about Liſmore. The ſame ſea-fiſh and ſea-fowl as are on the reſt of the weſtern coaſt abound here; ſuch as ſeas or cuddies, both large and ſmall, in vaſt ſhoals; red or rock cod, lythes, mackerel, and a few flounders.

Hills.—The hills of Glenco and Bailicheliſh are by far the higheſt in this pariſh. The tops of them are conical; and ſome of them are thought to be among the moſt romantic in Scotland. There is now an excellent line of road carried through Glenco, from whence theſe romantic ſtupenduous hills, when contraſted with the delightful valley below, appear uncommon objects to ſtrangers, and never fail to attract admiration.

Woods.—There are abundance of natural woods and planting on different eſtates in Appin. Some old natural grown firs remain in a few places in the higher parts of the country.

Animals.—In Liſmore, there are neither rats, moles, or foxes. There are otters in great abundance, with a few wild cats. Weaſels made their appearance here within theſe 12 years,

years, but never before; and they are now very numerous. In Appin and Kingerloch, there are moles, weaſels, white rats, martins, pole-cats, wild-cats, common and mountain hare; the laſt as white as ſnow in winter. There was not a common hare in the valleys in Appin, or in the neighbouring pariſh of Ardchallan, 20 years ago. There are foxes, badgers, and otters, in Appin. In the lower parts of Appin, particularly on the Marquis of Tweedel's and Mr Campbell of Aird's properties, there are roes in great abundance; not the ſhe of the hart, as ſome of our Engliſh Dictionaries falſely denominate them; for the roes have their bucks and does as the deer have their harts and hinds. In the higher parts of Appin, a few red or mountain deer frequently appear, when they are ſcared or frightened from the neighbouring foreſt of Buachail *, &c. A few deer occaſionally appear in Kingerloch; but the ſheep will ſoon baniſh them, as they cannot endure to paſture with them; nor are the roes fond of it. The ſquirrel is now become very rare, if not totally extinct, in this part of the Highlands.

The birds in this pariſh are much the ſame as in other parts of the Weſt Highlands. Eagles abound in Kingerloch, and the higher parts of Appin, together with ptarmigans, black cocks or heath-fowl, grouſe or moor-fowl. There are a few partridges in Liſmore and Appin. A variety of hawks are found in Liſmore, from the ſmalleſt kinds to the falcon or hunting hawk. Wild geeſe hatch in ſome of the iſlands round Liſmore. Though the very exiſtence of the jackdaws with red feet and bills is denied by ſome of the inhabitants

* On the banks of the river Ete, the Fingalian Uſnoch, and his three renowned ſons, Naoi or Naois, Ailli, and Ardan, were born, as ſet forth by Mr M'Pherſon. This is a piece of traditionary hiſtory well known in theſe countries.

habitants of the ſouth of Scotland, yet there is nothing more certain than that they are to be found hatching in the rocks about Liſmore. They are nearly of the ſame ſize with the grey-headed ones. The cuckow, ſwallow, water-wagtail, wood-cock, corn-crake or rail, with the lapwing, or green plover, make their appearance at the ſtated ſeaſons. In ſevere winters, a few ſwans viſit the lakes of this pariſh; but they ſeldom remain long in this country.

Number of Horſes, Sheep, &c.—It is difficult to aſcertain the number of cattle in theſe pariſhes. Very few horſes are now bred here; and all the black cattle bred are principally intended for common family uſe. There are 25000 ſheep in in the pariſh, or perhaps many more, as they are daily on the increaſe. The value of wool here has been always fluctuating, from 3 s. 9 d. to 6 s. and 7 s. the ſtone, the white, and that laid with tar mixed. At an average, from 7 to 8 fleeces go to a ſtone.

Population.—There is no aſcertaining whether population is on the increaſe or decline here, though, at firſt view, the immenſe tracts of ſheep-farms might naturally induce us to think it decreaſing. The inhabitants amount at preſent to 3526 ſouls. Liſmore contains 1121 of that number.

A rage for emigration has got to a great height, of late, in the Highlands. There have been two emigrations from theſe pariſhes, particularly from Appin. The inhabitants are now become ſo crowded, that ſome relief of this ſort, in one ſhape or other, ſeems abſolutely neceſſary. In 1775, the firſt ſhip, completely loaded with emigrants, moſtly from theſe pariſhes, ſailed for North Carolina. The American war, which broke out next year, put a ſtop to all attempts of this nature till

till last autumn, when another ship, with emigrants, mostly from Appin, and the higher parts of Ardchattan parish, carried away about 200 people for North Carolina. Preparations are making for another emigration from these parishes this year.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.—It is a difficult matter to ascertain exactly deaths, births, or marriages, in these extensive parishes, particularly on account of the great number of Episcopals and sectaries in Appin. It is impossible to keep any register of deaths, because there are seven or eight different places of interment, and some of these at great distances from each other. There are several christenings in Glenco not inserted in the Register, as also all that are baptised by the sectaries.

Rent, &c.—The rent of these parishes has increased exceedingly within these few years. When the present incumbent gave in a rental lately, in a process of augmentation, it amounted only to L. 4400 and odd pounds yearly. At present, the rental is about L. 8000 Sterling yearly, exclusive of kelp, woods, &c. Some lands in the parish are let at 10*s.* the acre, and some even higher; but this is not the case in general. There are 17 heritors possessed of property in these parishes; eight of whom are resident.

Crops.—The only crops raised in these parishes are oats, barley, and potatoes, with a little flax. From the small trials made by a few gentlemen, clover, ryegrass, and turnips, answer very well in both parishes. The minister has sown a little clover and rye-grass on his glebe for 18 or 20 years past, and he finds great benefit from it. Most of the rents of Lismore are paid in kind, i. e. in meal and barley. Some

farms in this parish sow 20, some 26 bolls, of barley yearly; and from 60 to 70 bolls of oats. But the returns are very small, owing to an unhappy desire among the farmers of labouring yearly too much unripe ground, that is, ground that is not allowed age sufficient to strengthen it. There is both rock and moss marl in Lismore in great quantities, and also some in Appin. This the tenants often use with too liberal a hand, to the great detriment of such ground as is not allowed age enough. But the invincible impediment to cultivation in general (besides the obstruction given by the rocks to the plough in Lismore) is want of fuel to burn lime. Peats are the only fuel in both parishes. The process of making them in Lismore is difficult beyond conception, as they are first tramped and wrought with men's feet, and then formed by the women's hands. There is a necessity for this; because the substance of which they are made contains no fibres to enable them to cohere or stick together. This tedious operation consumes much of the farmer's time, which, in a grain country, might be employed to much better advantage; and affords serious cause of regret that the coal-duty is not taken off, or lessened, which would remove the everlasting bar to the success of the fishing villages, and to improvements in general over all the coasts of Scotland. It may be averred, with some degree of confidence, that, unless the coast-duty be in some shape altered, the fishing villages, justly considered at present such flattering national objects, must be laid aside. Grain is not so strong here as in the south, owing to the incessant rains. Lime would perhaps, in some measure, remedy this evil.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—The Duke of Argyle is patron of this parish. All the inhabitants of Lismore are of the Established Church of Scotland; as are those of Kingerloch;

erloch; and, excepting a few, there is not a Seceder in either pariſh. There are four or five Papiſts in the pariſh of Appin, all of whom came from other pariſhes except one man, who was converted by his wife, an Iriſh-woman. There are great numbers of Epiſcopalians, in the higher parts of the pariſh of Appin; and a clergyman of their own perſuaſion reſides among them. There are four places of worſhip in the pariſh, viz. Lifmore and Appin, Glenco and Kingerloch. There is a miſſionary eſtabliſhed by the committee for managing the royal bounty between Glenco and the neighbouring glens belonging to the pariſh of Ardchattan. The miſſionary of Strontian preaches four times in the year at Kingerloch. It is the opinion of the judicious, that the funds for miſſionaries and catechiſts ſhould have been all alloted, long ago, for building new churches in theſe extenſive pariſhes. It would unqueſtionably turn out to much greater advantage to the public. Lifmore was a Biſhop's See, the reſidence of the Biſhop of the Iſles, and, at certain periods, of the Biſhop of Argyle. The preſent church of Lifmore is the chancel of the old cathedral new roofed about 40 years ago, after lowering the old walls from ten to ſeven feet. The font and confeſſional chair remain. The walls of the Biſhop's Caſtle ſtill remain pretty entire, four miles to the weſt of the cathedral. It has a ſquare open court within. There was a ſmall temple, with a burying ground, on an iſland, or rather peninſula, called Bernera, on the farm where the caſtle ſtands. In Appin, there is a neat, ſmall church, lately repaired. The church yard is incloſed with a wall of ſtone and lime. The manſe in Lifmore is not very good. It was built about 34 years ago, and repaired within theſe 20 years. The preſent incumbent, Mr Donald M'Nicol, was admitted miniſter of Lifmore and Appin the 15th of July 1766. The living was only L. 60 : 19 : 7 Sterling yearly, by the old converſion,

version, till the Lords of Session granted an augmentation, in June last, of L. 38 : 18 : 3 yearly. The victual consists of 21 bolls 2 firlots of barley, 52 bolls 2 firlots of oat-meal, (9 stones to the boll), which, by the old conversion of 100 lib. the chalder, makes the living now L. 99 : 17 : 10 Sterling yearly, including 100 merks for communion-elements, besides a glebe of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres arable, and about 6 acres of pasture ground, mostly bog or marsh. The value of the glebe cannot be easily ascertained. The posterity of the sextons hold a small piece of free land, that fetches a rent of about L. 12 Sterling yearly. They held their charter (a Latin one) originally from the Bishops, on express condition that they were to preserve the *baculum more*, probably the crosier. Twenty-five years ago, the property paid only L. 4 Sterling yearly rent. It is supposed to be among the oldest properties in the parish, handed down regularly in a lineal succession. Buchanan, in his History of Scotland, asserts that, in his time, there were some remains of religious houses in the islands Dreinich and Ramasa, on the north side of Lismore. Dr. Walker, Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh, and the present incumbent, searched for these ruins 26 years ago, but no vestiges of them were then to be found.

Poor.—The poor are supported chiefly by the the charity of the inhabitants, by begging from house to house. Any support they get here from the kirk-session is not adequate to their maintenance. From L. 18 to L. 20 are distributed in both parishes, arising from the Sunday collections, fines, and some other small funds. The Episcopal congregation contribute sometimes one or two guineas a year, to make up the above sum.

Schools.—There is a parochial school in Lismore, and another

ther in Appin, with a salary to each of them, from L. 18 to L. 20 Sterling yearly, over and above the school emoluments. The salaries arise in part from a parochial assessment of 4 d. in the pound of old valued rent, amounting to 200 merks Scots yearly, and partly from money mortified by King William for establishing schools in these parishes. There is an excellent good new school-house in Appin. The school-house in Lismore is very bad; but there is money for building a new one. There is one school, with a salary of L. 10 Sterling yearly, at the Slate Quarry in Glenco, granted by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The number of scholars is so fluctuating, that they cannot be easily ascertained. The school in the Straith of Appin consists of 60, and sometimes 80 scholars. The Society School at the Slate Quarry consists of about as many; and the one in Lismore of 40 or 50. There are sometimes one or more smaller schools kept up at the expence of the inhabitants in the more remote parts of the parishes.

Antiquities.—There are some Druidical cairns, or conical heaps of stones, in different places in the parishes, which formerly contained urns or earthen vases filled with ashes, and some pieces of human bones. One of these cairns, of very considerable magnitude, and of a regularly conical form, stands within a very small distance of the cathedral. One of these earthen vases or urns, containing ashes, and pieces of human sculls and bones, was turned up last year by the plough in a neighbouring farm. In the island of Lismore, there are several vestiges of Roman fortifications; and particularly an old castle, with a fusee and draw-bridge, said to have been built by the Danes, or Scandinavians, when they infested these coasts. There is also, within half a mile of the cathedral, one of the circular towers so frequently to be met with

with in the Iſle of Skye, and on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland, and which Dr Johnſon, contrary to the general opinion, ridiculouſly aſſerts to have been erected for preſerving the cattle from the depredations of thieves in the night-time. Theſe towers have been probably intended, partly at leaſt, for raiſing beacons or fires on them, to alarm the coaſt and country, on the approach of enemies. For this reaſon, the greateſt care has been always taken to place them in a ſituation commanding a moſt extenſive view, ſo as to be ſeen from the neighbouring towers and heights. In conſtructing the walls of the tower in this iſland, neither lime nor mortar of any ſort is uſed.

Curioſities.—The prodigious ſtrata of marl, from 10 to 16 feet deep, in the bottoms of all the lakes in Liſmore, may be ranked among the curioſities in this pariſh. There is in this iſland, in the face of a lime-ſtone rock, ſeven or eight feet above the ſurface of the ground, and quite beyond the reach of tides, a ſeam, 12 or 15 inches broad, of a concretion, compoſed of all the varieties of ſhells to be found on theſe coaſts, with now and then a ſmall mixture of charcoal, as firm, and nearly as ſolid, as the rock ſurrounding it, to which it ſeems to be perfectly united, and to make a part. Pieces of it have been carried to Edinburgh. Water running over the face of the lime-ſtone rocks in this iſland generally diſſolves ſofter particles of it, and leaves the more ſolid parts in a variety of fanciful groteſque figures.

The lime-ſtone rocks in Liſmore lie all in one direction, in layers, one above another, nearly from ſouth-eaſt to north-weſt. There are ſeams or ſpars three or four feet broad, of remarkably hard flinty rocks or ſtones running acroſs the iſland, at the diſtance of 1½ or 2 miles. Theſe ſeams appear

in

in a direct line with thoſe in Liſmore, on the oppoſite coaſt of Morvein, where there is no lime-ſtone. But, of all the curioſities in this iſland, the moſt remarkable ſeem to be deer, and perhaps elk-horns, of great ſize, and cow-horns of ſtill a much greater ſize in proportion. The pith of one of the latter, though much ſhrivelled and withered, is 12 inches in circumference at the root. Tradition aſſerts that this iſland was of old a deer-foreſt; and the number of deer-horns, and a deer-ſkeleton found quite entire, confirms the aſſertion. It is ſaid that the ſeventh moſt ſucceſsful hunting-chace which Fingal ever had was in this iſland; and the inhabitants pretend to point out *Slia nan ban fionn*, the hill or eminence of the Fingalian fair ladies, on which they ſat to view the diverſion.

Language.—The common language of the pariſh is the Gaelic, a branch of the antient Celtic. The names of all the places in the pariſh are manifeſtly derived from it. The miniſter preaches, in the long days, both in Gaelic and Engliſh; particularly in Appin, where there are ſome who underſtand Engliſh only. It is believed that few preachers in any part of the world, except thoſe in the Highlands, preach in two languages. This is one of the many inconveniencies under which a clergyman labours in theſe extenſive pariſhes.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—As there is no public market in theſe pariſhes, there is no poſſibility of aſcertaining the price of grain or proviſions. Barley generally ſells from 18 s. to 20 s. and 21 s. the boll; meal from 14 s. to 16 s.; butter generally for 12 s. the ſtone, (this ſtone ſhould be 24 lb.), and cheeſe for 5 s. and 6 s. the ſtone. What is ſold in ſpring, or late in the ſeaſon, is often at a higher price. Moſt of the work in theſe pariſhes is managed by ſervants hired

hired for the year, and maintained by the respective families that employ them. As the Justices of the Peace found it impracticable to fix any standard for servants wages, it is in vain to attempt saying any thing decidedly on this subject. One man pays servants, both men and women, a third, and sometimes one half, more than others, owing to the difference both of treatment and the manner in which they are employed. Such as work for day's wages have from 8 d. to 1 s. a day, and maintain themselves. At severe work, such as kelp-making, wood-cutting, and coaling, &c. they have much more. A taylor has 6 d. or 8 d. and his victuals; and a shoemaker much the same; carpenters, and other mechanics, 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. and their victuals.

Services.—Although personal services performed by tenants still prevail in different parts of the Highlands, they are becoming obsolete in these parishes. The services were seldom discretionary, but limited. Some tenants go from this island to the main-land to perform these services, at the distance of 8 or 9 miles. They devote at least 6 or 7 days yearly to their master's or landlord's service in this way; and they get some allowance, for the most part, to support them while performing their work. This is over and above 2 or 3 days that some of them work yearly at roads. Some proprietors in neighbouring parishes carried these services to a shameful, not to say oppressive, pitch, in obliging their tenants and cottagers to cut, stack, and house their peats, &c, and to find their own provisions all the time. This is one of the innumerable grievances occasioned by the heavy coal duty.

Roads and Bridges.—Since the residence of the present incumbent in the parish, roads and bridges have undergone a remarkable change for the better, especially in Appin. There

is

is an excellent line of road, mostly finished, from Shian Ferry through Airds, Strath of Appin, Duror, and Glenco, to the King's House at Lubnamart, with 6 or 7 bridges, for a course of 17 or 18 computed miles, besides several by-roads. Last year a line of road has been opened to Glencreren. There has been little done to the roads in Lismore. There are no tolls in the Highlands.

Post-Office.—When the present incumbent came to the parish, and several years afterwards, the nearest post-office was at Inverary; and a few of the gentlemen of Appin employed a runner, who went once a week to Inverary to bring their letters, newspapers, &c. Mr Seaton of Touch, who bought the estate of Appin (a gentleman particularly attentive to the good of the parish, and of the country in general) after much trouble and solicitation, got a post-office established in Appin, becoming himself security for making good any deficiency that might happen. For several years the office barely supported the expence of the runner, &c.; but the circulation of correspondence increased so rapidly, that this last year it made a clear return to the revenue of about L. 74 Sterling, which would defray the whole coal duty of this county yearly, as it stood lately, by a state taken from the Customhouse books. A runner goes now thrice every week from Appin to Bunaw, and from Bunaw to Inverary, and returns as often. A branch of this post-office extends from Bunaw to Oban; and from Oban, where there is a Customhouse, to Aros in the Island of Mull. Another branch extends from Appin to Fort William, the north line, and likewise to Strontian. A letter may come in three days, or even two days and a half, from Edinburgh to Appin. The establishment of this post-office contributes highly to the pleasure and advantage of this country and the neighbourhood;

though it must be acknowledged that it costs nearly L. 70 Sterling yearly. Numbers of carriers are employed monthly between Appin, Benderloch, Oban, and Glasgow; and vessels called *packets* run generally once a month between Greenock, Oban, and Mull, with goods of various sorts for the accommodation of the neighbouring countries. The post-office in Appin is at present kept by Mr John M'Laren schoolmaster, for a small salary of not more than about L. 5 Sterling yearly.

Massacre of Glenco.—It were to be wished that a veil could be thrown over this part of our history, as it was the most barbarous transaction of modern times sanctioned by any regular authority from government. The massacre of Glenco happened in King William's reign, and is a circumstance well known. As it does not add much lustre to the humanity of the times, it may suffice to observe, that all the inhabitants who could be seized were indiscriminately butchered in cold blood, mostly in their beds, by the soldiers and officers who were their guests, and hospitably entertained for ten days before. The officers were playing cards with Glenco and Mrs M'Donald the early part of the night: Before day, Glenco was murdered in his wife's arms. Mr M'Donald of Achtrichatain shared the same fate.

Public Houses.—In Kingerloch there are 2 public houses, at the two ferries to Lismore and Appin, where they cannot be wanted; in Appin there are 9 or 10; in Lismore 7 or 8. These houses cannot be supposed to improve the morals of the people; though, in a country situated as this is, a few of them cannot be wanted. Four or five of those in Appin are slate houses, and pretty well kept; the others are but of a very ordinary kind.

Sea

Sea Coaſts and Currents, &c.—There is a vaſt extent of ſea-coaſt in theſe pariſhes; perhaps from 80 to 90 miles in all directions. Where it lies contiguous, a great deal of ſea-weed is uſed for manuring the ground for barley and potatoes. There is a violent current between the weſt end of Liſmore and Mull, well known to ſea-faring people, at the dangerous rock of Carrig, which is covered with the tide at high water. There are a number of ſmaller currents, though not ſo deſerving of notice. There is a ſmall, but ſtrong one, at the Ferry of Bailicheliſh, leading up to Lochleven and the ſlate quarry. There is a pretty ſtrong one at the ferry between Liſmore and Appin, and another at Shian Ferry, between Appin and Benderloch. Between the weſt end of Liſmore and Morvein three ſtreams meet, in conſequence of contrary tides, which, in tempeſtuous weather, occaſion a ſmart ſwell and broken ſeas. All the above currents change their courſes regularly with the tides. The beſt anchoring about the iſland, for veſſels of any burden, is in the narrow ſound between Ramaſa and Liſmore, near the north point of the iſland. There is likewiſe very ſafe anchoring a little to the weſt of Ramaſa, in the Bay of Iſland Lochoſcair, (Oſcar's Iſland), by Buchanan termed *Molochaſcair*, where veſſels of any burden can conveniently ride in a pretty ſafe road, and free of any breakers.

Mines, Quarries, &c.—Several appearances of lead mines are to be found in Appin: Only one of them was attempted to be wrought, but it did not turn out to any advantage. There is ſome appearance of marble in Appin; but the ſlate quarry of Bailicheliſh, at Laroch in Glenco, is the only quarry of this nature in the pariſh that has turned out to any material advantage *. There are a great number of hands at work; and

* There are 74 families in the quarry, containing 322 ſouls.

and a great quantity of slates are sent yearly to the north and east countries, to Leith, Clyde, England, Ireland, and even to America. Vessels of any burden can load most commodiously in fine smooth sand, so near the shore, that they may be loaded by throwing a few planks between the vessels and the shore; and there is little or no swell in the road. The quality of the slates is thought very good. Burning of lime for sale has been begun by adventurers in Lismore and Appin; and, as the lime is of a most superior quality, this undertaking might turn out to advantage, not only to the adventurers, but to the public at large, as an encouragement to building, husbandry, &c. were it not for the check given to it by the coal duty.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The principal advantage in these parishes is the vast extent of sea-coast, with bays and inlets. The snow seldom lies deep or long on the sea-coast, a circumstance highly favourable to sheep and black cattle. The good roads and bridges in Appin are of great and general utility. Peats are the common fuel of the country, but they take up the very best part of the season to secure them. The frequent rains here often destroy some of this part of the farmer's industry. The high duty on coals is the greatest disadvantage these parishes labours under, and prove an unsurmountable bar to manufactures and improvements of all sorts. The want of public established markets is likewise a great disadvantage. A ton of coals costs from 18 s. to 21 s. and 24 s. The duty on salt is likewise a great grievance, as managed at present, and requires to be remedied. The trouble of preparing, and the time consumed by the inhabitants in securing their fuel, in Lismore in particular, where attention to their crops and tillage, would take up all the labour they could spare, is a most serious grievance, and to be remedied only by an alteration in

in the coal duty. This is an object of high national concern, in which the gentlemen of property are most deeply interested, and to which, it is hoped, they will pay particular attention; and, if they wish that these countries should ever turn out to any proper account in the way of manufactures, tillage, or any other improvements, they should all unite as one man to endeavour to rectify this grievance, and get their country relieved from so unhappy a nuisance.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is a remarkable echo near the Bishop's old castle at Achinduin: It repeats distinctly seven or eight syllables. There is another at an old castle in Kingerloch, much the same as the above. There are five different remains or ruins of old castles in these parishes. On the south side of Lismore, opposite to Oban, there stands on a small island, (Eilleanna cleich), a curious rock, covered in part with ivy, and perfectly resembling the ruins of an old house. Mr Pennant was so struck with its romantic appearance, that he made it the frontispiece to the last volume of his travels. Several estates in these parishes have been regularly surveyed; but where there are so many proprietors, and the whole not surveyed, it is impossible to ascertain the number of acres.

The people in this parish are, in general, laborious and industrious. Crimes of an enormous nature are hardly known here. No instance of suicide, or of murder, has occurred for 25 years past. The common people are less addicted to drinking than they were 20 years ago. All ranks are remarkable for their charity to the poor. In severe seasons, many of them double their attention to relieve the wants of the needy. No inhabitant of these extensive parishes has been executed or banished for 25 years past. One or two persons, guilty of

of some irregularities, voluntarily banished themselves. There has been no instance of child murder in the parish in the memory of man. This is a crime hardly known in the west Highlands. The people in this part are much less fluctuating in their religious opinions than they are to the southward.

A man of singular frame was born in Appin. He was the stoutest or thickest man in Britain, or even perhaps in Europe, at the time. His name was Carmichael. He was a soldier in the 42d regiment, and died above 30 years ago. He was said to be not above six feet high; but was so singular for the stoutness of his make, that his portrait, as large as the life, was painted, by order of the King, and placed in the Tower of London as a curiosity. He was noted for the mildness of his disposition. He could carry on his back, with ease, 1 cwt. more than the strongest porter in Dublin.

NUM.

NUMBER LIII.

PARISH OF MEIGLE.

By the Rev. Dr JAMES PLAYFAIR.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Meigle, in the center of Strathmore, is bounded on the north-weſt and north by the rivers of Iſla and Dean; on the eaſt and ſouth by the pariſhes of Effay, Nevay, and Newtyle; on the ſouth-weſt and weſt by thoſe of Ketins and Coupar; lying in 56° 36′ N. latitude, and 5′ E. longitude from Edinburgh; being 4½ miles from S. W. to N. E. and 1—2 miles broad.

Strathmore—Is an extenſive plain, reaching from the vicinity of Perth to Brechin, almoſt 40 miles long, and 4—6 broad, bounded by two ridges of mountains. The ſouth ridge, called Sidla, extends from Perth eaſtward to Red-head, a promontory on the coaſt of the German Ocean, between Arbroath and Montroſe. The Grampians form the northern boundary, and traverſe the iſland. The elevation of ſeveral mountains on the borders of the Strath has been aſcertained by barometrical meaſurement, as follows: Dunſinnan-hill, on which a caſtle or fort was erected by Macbeth, 1024½ feet above the level of the ſea at low water mark; King-ſeat, a mile eaſtward, 1238 feet; the meridian mark of Belmont,

759 feet; Kinpurnie-hill, noted for a tower on its ſummit, 3 miles S. E. of Belmont, 1151 feet; Sidla-hill, a mile S. E. of Kinpurnie, 1406 feet; Barry-hill, on the oppoſite border of the Strath, 3 miles northward of Belmont, 688 feet. This level and fertile Strath is beautifully diverſified with plantations of trees, cultivated fields, towns, villages, and ſeats: But ſeveral conſiderable tracts are ſtill barren, and covered with heath.

Rivers.—The river Iſla has its ſource in the Grampian Mountains, ſeveral miles northward of Mount Blair. Bathing the foot of that mountain, it turns eaſtward, traverſes longitudinally the narrow valley of Glenilla, below which it forms a caſcade, called the *Reeky Linn*, upwards of 30 feet high. Afterwards, proceeding through a deep and rocky channel, it is augmented by two ſmall ſtreams at the baſe of a rocky peninſula, on which lie the ruins of Airly Caſtle, which was antiently a ſtrong fortreſs, conſtructed at different periods, and demoliſhed during the Commonwealth. Thence the Iſla deſcends with rapidity into the plain, and runs ſouthward near a pleaſant ſeat formerly called Ruthven, now Iſla-bank. Suddenly changing the direction of its courſe to W. S. W. it ſlowly moves, in a winding paſſage, through a flat country, which it frequently inundates, receives the Ericht two miles north of Cupar, and falls into the Tay at Kincleven. There are three bridges on the Iſla; one between the lower extremity of Glenilla and Airly Caſtle; another near the church of Ruthven; and a third a mile N. W. of Cupar. In the neighbourhood of Meigle, there is a ferry-boat on the Iſla, in the road from Dundee to Alyth. Several attempts have been made to raiſe L. 800 for building a bridge at that ferry; but theſe have been hitherto fruſtrated by the ſocieties who were peculiarly intereſted in their ſucceſs. In rainy ſeaſons,

ſons, the Iſla and Ericht prove very prejudicial to the adjacent fields. Increaſed by many rapid torrents, they overflow their banks, and ſometimes, with reſiſtleſs force, ſweep away whole harveſts, and ruin "the well earned treaſures of the "labouring year."

The Dean flows from the lake of Forfar, paſſes by Glammis Caſtle, in meanders glides gently along the north borders of Effay and Meigle, and loſes itſelf in the Iſla, half a mile N. N. W. of the town of Meigle. The courſe of this river, in a direct line, does not exceed 10 miles. Acroſs it is a narrow and badly conſtructed bridge, in the road from Cupar to Kirriemuir.

A rivulet originates in Kinpurnie-hill, runs N. W. through the pariſh of Newtyle, waters the weſtern part of this pariſh, and augments the Dean a mile above the influx of that river into the Iſla.

Antiquities.—There are many remains of antiquity in this pariſh and neighbourhood; but, with regard to theſe, tradition gives us little information, and antient records ſtill leſs. The accounts handed down through each ſucceeding generation are groſsly corrupted. The tales and ſtories related by fabulous writers are, for the moſt part, too wild and extravagant to merit belief. Abandoning, therefore, all ſuch legends to thoſe who can find inſtruction or entertainment in them, we ſhall proceed to a review of the moſt remarkable monuments of antiquity in this corner, taking notice of the moſt plauſible conjectures concerning them.

In the incloſures of Belmont there is a tumulus called *Belliduff*, which tradition will have to be the ſpot where Macbeth

fought and fell; and, at ſome diſtance, a ſtone of granite, 20 tons in weight, ſtands almoſt erect, to commemorate, it is ſaid, the death of one of his generals: But that tyrant, it is more probable, was ſlain at Lumphanan, a village in the Mearns.

In the church-yard of Meigle are the remains of the grand ſepulchral monument of Vanora, alſo called Vanera, Wanor, and Guinevar, the Britiſh Helena, as her name, according to Prideaux, imports. This princeſs was the wife of Arthur, who flouriſhed in the 6th century, and whoſe hiſtory is involved in fables. In a battle between the army of that monarch and the united forces of Scots and Picts, Vanora was taken priſoner, and carried, along with other ſpoils, into Angus, where ſhe lived ſome time in miſerable captivity on Barry-hill. Such is the doubtful account recorded in the antient annals of this country. The character of that unfortunate perſonage has been drawn in the blackeſt colours. She has been repreſented as one who led a laſcivious life, and held an unlawful correſpondence with Mordred, a Pictiſh king, which provoked the jealouſy of her huſband, and excited him to take up arms in revenge of the injury. As a puniſhment of her enormious crimes, it is added, ſhe was torn in pieces by wild beaſts; her body was buried at Meigle, and a monument erected to perpetuate her infamy. Whether this detail be genuine, or has ariſen from the ſymbolic characters on the ſtones, it is impoſſible to determine.

That monument ſeems to have been compoſed of many ſtones artfully joined, and decorated with a variety of hieroglyphical or ſymbolical characters, moſt of which are of the monſtrous kind, and repreſent acts of violence on the perſon of a woman. On one ſtone are three ſmall croſſes, with many animals above and below. On another is a croſs adorned with

with various flowers, and the rude repreſentations of fiſhes, beaſts, and men on horſeback. On a third is an open chariot drawn by two horſes, and ſome perſons in it; behind is a wild beaſt devouring an human form lying proſtrate on the earth. On a fourth is an animal ſomewhat reſembling an elephant. On another, 8 feet long, and 3 feet 3 inches broad, ſtanding upright in a ſocket, there is a croſs. In the middle are ſeveral figures with the bodies of horſes, or camels, and the heads of ſerpents; on each ſide of which are wild beaſts and reptiles conſiderably impaired. On the reverſe is the figure of a woman, attacked on all ſides by dogs and other furious animals. Above are ſeveral perſons on horſeback, with hounds, engaged in the chace. Below is a centaur, and a ſerpent of enormous ſize faſtened on the mouth of a bull. Accurate drawings of thoſe ſtones are to be found in Pennant's Tour. Many other ſtones, which originally belonged to this monument, have been carried off, or broken in pieces, by the inhabitants of this place. As ſeveral of thoſe which remain have been removed from their proper poſition; as many of the figures are defaced; and as we are, in a great meaſure, unacquainted with the art of decyphering hieroglyphics, the hiſtory delineated on Vanora's monument is now irrecoverably loſt. The antiquary may amuſe himſelf with the fragments which remain; but he can ſcarcely form one plauſible conjecture with reſpect to their original meaning and deſign. The fabulous Boece records a tradition prevailing in his time, viz. that, if a young woman ſhall walk over the grave of Vanora, ſhe ſhall entail on herſelf perpetual ſterility. But, whatever apprehenſions of this nature the fair ſex in his time might have entertained, the moſt credulous are not now afraid of making the experiment.

Barry-hill,

Barry-hill, the ſuppoſed place of Vanora's confinement, merits ſome deſcription. It is one of the Grampians, 1½ mile N. E. of Alyth, it commands an extenſive view of Strathmore, and of ſeveral remarkable hills in the Sidla range, viz. Dunſinnan, Kinpurnie, Sidla, Finhaven, &c. all of which might have been antiently uſed as watch towers, or places of defence. Hiſtory informs us that the Picts kept poſſeſſion of Dun-barry, and the adjacent country, from a remote period to the 9th century, or later; but the preciſe dates of their ſettlement in thoſe parts, and of their expulſion, cannot be aſcertained. The hill itſelf is of an oval form. Its ſummit was levelled into an area 180 feet long, and 72 or 74 broad. Around the area a mound of earth was raiſed, from 6 to 8 feet high, and 10 to 12 broad at top. On this mound a wall of free-ſtone was built without any cement whatever. The foundation of the wall was compoſed of rough granite, and ſtill remains. It is of the ſame breadth with the ſummit of the mound; but the height of the wall cannot be known: Gordon's eſtimate of it is extremely erroneous. Among the ruins there are ſeveral pieces of vitrified ſtone; but theſe vitrifications muſt have been accidental, as they are few and inconſiderable. Along the weſt and north borders of the area, barracks, or huts, were built of dry ſtone, and ſufficiently ſheltered by the mound and wall; but no ſtructures of this ſort can be traced in the ſouth part of the area. As the north and weſt ſides of the hill are ſteep, and of difficult acceſs, there was no need of an outer ditch in thoſe quarters: But, towards the ſouth and eaſt, where the hill gently ſlopes, there is a ditch 10 feet broad, and 12 to 16 feet below the foundation of the wall. At the S. E. extremity of the fort, a narrow bridge was raiſed over the ditch, 18 feet long, and 2 broad, except towards each end, where the breadth was increaſed. It was compoſed of ſtones laid together

together without much art, and vitrified above, below, and on both ſides; ſo that the whole maſs was firmly cemented. That an opening was left below, after the proceſs was finiſhed, is doubtful. On the upper part of the bridge a ſtratum of gravel was laid, to render the paſſage ſmooth and eaſy. This is the ſole part of the fort intentionally vitrified. A few yards diſtant from the ditch, there is an outer wall, the foundation of which is about 8 feet lower than the ſummit of the mound. The approach to the fort is from the N. E. along the verge of a precipice; and the entrance was ſecured by a bulwark of ſtone, the ruins of which are extant. There is no veſtige of a well within the fort; but, weſtward, between the baſis of the mound and the precipice, there was a deep pond or lake, recently filled up by the tenants in that neighbourhood. About a quarter of a mile eaſtward, on the declivity of the hill, there are ſome remains of another oval fort, of leſs extent than the preceding, conſiſting of a ſtrong wall and ditch. Tradition ſays, that there was a ſubterranean communication between theſe forts, which is not improbable. From the account now given, it would appear, 1. That both were conſtructed before the Romans introduced the art of building with lime and other cement. 2. That the Picts, and antient Scots had ſtone edifices, which Macpherſon is not inclined to admit. 3. That they ſometimes vitrified particular parts of their forts, to render them the more durable.

There is no veſtige of a Roman highway in the neighbourhood of Meigle, though traces of one have been diſcovered in other parts of the country. At Cupar are extant the outlines of a camp formed by Agricola's army in his ſeventh year's expedition. On the praetorium, Malcolm IV by the advice of his grandfather, founded an abbey for the reception

of

of Cistercian Friars, A. D. 1164, and endowed it with a considerable revenue.

Population.—About a century ago, a considerable part of this parish, viz the estates of Kinloch and Bamyle, belonged to that of Cupar. From a list then given in to the presbytery by the Bishop of Brechin, it appears, that, in Cupar, there were 850 communicants, and 550 in Meigle. According to the report transmitted to Dr Webster, A. D. 1739, concerning the population of the latter, it contained 1000 inhabitants: But that report was not accurate; for, though its numbers have been considerably diminished since that period, it still contains 1148, including all ages and denominations. There are 86 below 3 years; 165 from 3 to 10; 269, 10—20; 188, 20—30; 145, 30—40; 97, 50—60; 43, 60—70; 20, 70—80; and 8 from 80 to 90.

Rating the entire number at 1150, the proportions of certain ages are nearly as follows, viz $\frac{1}{17}$ below 3 years; $\frac{1}{7}$ from 3 to 10; $\frac{1}{4}$, 10—20; $\frac{1}{6}$ 20—30; $\frac{1}{8}$, 30—40; $\frac{1}{9}$, 40—50; $\frac{1}{12}$, 50—60; $\frac{1}{27}$, 60—70; $\frac{1}{57}$, 70—80; and $\frac{1}{164}$ from 80 to 90.

In 1148 inhabitants, there are 37 unmarried persons of both sexes who have houses; 163 married pairs; 42 of both sexes in widowhood; and 242 families; so that the number of widowed persons of both sexes is to that of married pairs as 1 to 4 nearly. There are born annually $37\frac{85}{100}$ children; viz. $20\frac{30}{100}$ males, and $17\frac{55}{100}$ females: So that $6\frac{1}{2}$ families nearly, produce 1 child a year. The proportion of the births to that of the whole inhabitants is as 1 to $30\frac{25}{100}$. There are $7\frac{9}{10}$ marriages annually.

The

The proportion of perſons who die at certain ages every year is as follows, viz. 9 below 3 years; $1\frac{7}{10}$ from 3 to 10; 2, 10—20; $2\frac{4}{10}$, 20—30; 2, 30—40; $2\frac{1}{10}$, 40—50; $3\frac{4}{10}$, 50—60; $3\frac{1}{10}$, 60—70; $3\frac{1}{10}$, 70—80; 1 from 80 to 90: In all 31, or $\frac{1}{17}$ of the whole inhabitants. The proportion of females to males who die yearly is 16 to 15; the reverſe of what is uſually ſtated in bills of mortality. The proportion of births to deaths is 38 to 31 nearly.

The whole pariſh is divided among eight proprietors. The valued rent is L. 4200: 17: 2 Scots; and the real rent is about ſix times that ſum.

Towns, &c.—There is no town or village of any note in the pariſh. Meigle, an antient, inconſiderable, meanly built, market town, containing 271 inhabitants, is pleaſantly ſituated on a rivulet of the ſame name, in the center of the pariſh, at the interſection of two turnpike roads, 12 miles N. W. of Dundee, $6\frac{1}{2}$ N. E. of Cupar, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ S. W. of Glammis. The weekly market is on Wedneſday. Annual fairs are held on the laſt Wedneſday of June and of October. Meigle was a village, and burying place, before the introduction of Chriſtianity, as appears from ſome ſepulchral monuments and tombſtones lately found in the walls of the church.

Seats.—There are three ſeats in the moſt advantageous ſituations; and two of them are in good repair. Belmont Caſtle, a modern edifice, ſtands on a gentle eminence, 204 feet above the level of half flood mark at Panbride, and commands an extenſive view of the plain. Finiſhed in the neateſt and moſt commodious manner, it contains a conſiderable number of elegant apartments, with a library conſiſting of a ſelect collection of books, chiefly mathematical, claſſical, and hiſtorical,

hiſtorical, of the beſt editions. The obſervatory, on an adjoining lawn, is in 56° 35′ N. latitude, and 3° 11′ 15″ W. longitude from the royal obſervatory at Greenwich. The gardens and fine incloſures, with which this place is ſurrounded, conſpire to render it the moſt delightful reſidence in Strathmore. Drumkilbo and Kinloch are pleaſantly ſituated: But the latter is in a ruinous condition.

Church.—Meigle is the ſeat of a preſbytery, containing 13 pariſhes, in the ſynod of Angus and Mearns. Formerly it was annexed to the ſee of Dunkeld. Several of the Biſhops of that dioceſe reſided here; and two of them, viz. James Nicolſon and William Lindſay, were interred in the church. The firſt preſbyterian clergyman was Mr Millar, who being tranſlated to the Grayfriars in Edinburgh, A. D. 1709, was ſucceeded by David Thompſon, who ſerved the cure 47 years. His ſucceſſor, Alexander Scot, was removed from Kingoldrum to this place A. D. 1757, and died in November 1776. In the year following, Dr James Playfair, the preſent incumbent, was tranſlated from Newtyle. The ſtipend of this pariſh is 9 chalders of victual, and about L. 4 Sterling vicarage. The King is patron. The greater part of the ſtipend of Dunkeld is paid out of this pariſh. The church was lately rebuilt, and the manſe is in tolerable repair. On all occaſions the heritors have expreſſed their alacrity in granting whatever is neceſſary to the ſupport of theſe fabrics.

School.—The parochial ſchool is endowed with a ſalary of L. 100 Scots, beſides a dwelling-houſe and ſmall garden. The profits and emoluments ariſing from 45 ſcholars are about L. 16 a year. The ſeſſion-clerk's fee is L. 1 : 10 : 0, and his perquiſites L. 2 : 10 : 0. The preſent incumbent, by

age

age incapacitated from teaching, the education of the youth has, for ſome time paſt, been committed to an aſſiſtant.

Improvements.—Since the year 1745, a fortunate epoch for Scotland in general, improvements have been carried on with great ardour and ſucceſs. At that time, the ſtate of this country was rude beyond conception. The moſt fertile tracts were waſte, or indifferently cultivated, and the bulk of the inhabitants were uncivilized. The education, manners, dreſs, furniture, and table, of the gentry, were not ſo liberal, decent, and ſumptuous, as thoſe of ordinary farmers at preſent. The common people, clothed in the coarſeſt garb, and ſtarving on the meaneſt fare, lived in deſpicable huts with their cattle.

The half ploughed fields yielded ſcanty crops, and manufactures ſcarcely exiſted. Almoſt every improvement in agriculture is of a late date; for no ground was then fallowed; no peaſe, graſs, turnip, or potatoes, were raiſed; no cattle were fattened, and little grain was exported. Oats and barley were alternately ſown; and, during ſeven months in the year, the beſt ſoil was ravaged by flocks of ſheep, a certain number of which were annually ſold, and carried off to be fed in richer paſtures.

The inactivity and indolence of tenants were aſtoniſhing. When ſeed-time was finiſhed, the plough and harrow were laid aſide till autumn; and the ſole employment of a farmer and his ſervants conſiſted in weeding his corn fields, and in digging and conveying home peat, turf, and heath, for winter fuel. The produce of a farm, holding a proportion to thoſe exertions, was barely ſufficient to enable the tenant to

pay his trifling rent and ſervant's wages, and to procure for his family a ſcanty ſubſiſtence.

The rent of an acre of infield was 8—12s.; and of outfield 2—5s. The wages of a male ſervant were L. 1:10:0, or L. 1:15:0; of a female, 12—15s. The price of an horſe L. 4:6:0; of an ox L. 2; of a ſheep 5s.; of a hen 4d.; of a dozen eggs 1d. A cart or coup 14s; a plough 5s.; an harrow 6d.; and other utenſils of huſbandry nearly in the ſame proportion to the preſent rates.

To emancipate the inhabitants of this country from a ſtate of barbariſm, and to rouſe a ſpirit of induſtry, was a bold and arduous enterpriſe. A gentleman, diſtinguiſhed by his rank, fortune, and public ſpirit, undertook and accompliſhed the taſk. With a zeal and perſeverance becoming an enlightened and liberal mind, he formed plans of improvement, incloſed farms with proper fences, baniſhed ſheep from infield grounds, combated the prejudices of his tenants, furniſhed them with marl, diſtributed premiums, and otherwiſe rewarded their exertions. The good effects of thoſe meaſures ſoon appeared; and other proprietors imitated the example. In a few years, improvements were diffuſed through the whole country. The tenants, as if awaked out of a profound ſleep, looked around, beheld his fields clothed with the richeſt harveſts, his herds fattening in luxuriant paſtures, his family decked in gay attire, his table loaded with ſolid fare, and wondered at his former ignorance and ſtupidity. The landlord rejoiced in the ſucceſs of his ſchemes, and ſhared in the honours and profits of this new erection. The manufacturer, mechanic, and tradeſman, redoubled their efforts to ſupply the increaſing demand for the conveniencies and elegancies of life.

In

In this parish considerable improvements have been made, but much remains to be effected. The greater part of it is inclosed and subdivided with hedges and hedge-rows; but two of the proprietors being minors, their tenants have not sufficient encouragement to proceed with vigour. The soil, in general, is a fine black mold on a bottom of mortar, and yields excellent crops of wheat, barley, oats, turnip, flax, and grass. About eight years ago, the author of this memoir procured a few grains of oats of an excellent quality, but unknown in this country. During the first three years he sowed them in his garden, and afterwards in his glebe. The increase has been considerable; for last year, viz. A. D. 1790, there were upwards of 500 bolls of them in the neighbourhood. They are 17 stones English per boll, are several weeks earlier than the common oats, and are not liable to be shaken by the wind. There are 9 farms in this parish, from L. 50 to L. 200; about 20 from L. 20 to 50; the rest are inconsiderable.

The rent of the infield, *i. e.* of four-fifths of the whole, is 15—30 s. per acre. The hire of a day labourer is 10 d. or 1 s.; of a man servant L. 7 : 9 : 0; of a female L. 3. The price of beef, mutton, and pork, 3½ d. and 4 d.; of a turkey 3 s. 6 d.; of a goose 2 s. 6 d.; of a hen 10 d. a dozen eggs 3 d.; butter 8 d. a pound of 22 ounces; cheese 5 s. a stone, same weight. The prices of wheat, oats, barley, and meal, are generally regulated by the market at Dundee. Utensils of husbandry are expensive. A coup is L. 8 : 10 : 0; a plough L. 1 : 10 : 0, and L. 2 : 2 : 0; a harrow 8 s.; harness for two horses L. 2 : 16 : 0.

Manufactures.—The principal manufacture in this corner is linen. There are 91 weavers in the parish, who work every week

week about 4000 yards, the profit ariſing from which is L. 25. A ſtamp-office was eſtabliſhed here ſeveral years ago. In the year 1788, 147,024 yards of cloth were ſtamped at this office; in 1789, 150,174 yards; and in 1790, 136,998 yards. The linen manufactured here is of a ſuperior quality, and uſed chiefly for buckram, hat linings, &c.

Poor.—In a corner of the country where a ſpirit of induſtry pervades every rank, there muſt be, in proportion, few objects of charity. At preſent, there are from ſix to eight on the poor's liſt; and the neceſſities of theſe are relieved according to the judgment and diſcretion of the members of ſeſſion. About 50 years ago, the monthly collections for the poor were 7 s. 9 d.; 30 years ago, they amounted to 14 s.; and are now L. 1 : 10 : 0. In the year 1782, the ſums received, and thoſe diſtributed in charity, were nearly equal. The public fund is conſiderable, and adequate to any exigence.

The principal diſadvantage under which this pariſh and the neighbourhood labour, is their great diſtance from proper fuel. The lower claſs are indifferently ſupplied with peat or turf from moſſes in the vicinity; and the reſt with coal from Dundee. The expence of the carriage of coal is nearly equal to the original price: But this diſadvantage might, in a great meaſure, be removed by a navigable canal.

Canal.—About 30 years ago, a merchant in this corner, a man of uncommon ſagacity and enterpriſe, apprehending the utility of a canal through Strathmore, found means to procure a ſurvey of its courſe from Perth towards Forfar, together with an eſtimate of the expence: But the plan he had conceived

conceived being on too large a ſcale, and improvements and manufactures being then in their infancy, the deſign was laid aſide. The utility and practicableneſs of a canal between Perth and Forfar will appear from the following remarks: 1. The whole extent of its courſe would be about 36 miles, through a tolerably level and fertile country. 2. Its greateſt elevation, at the eaſtern extremity, would not exceed 220 feet above the level of the ſea. 3. A channel 15 feet broad, and 6 deep, with receſſes at certain intervals, and 22 locks, might be ſufficient. 4. From the higher grounds many rivulets and ſmall ſtreams deſcend; and by theſe it would be amply ſupplied with water. 5. The neareſt port towns are Perth and Dundee, diſtant 12—18 miles. 6. From thoſe places, coal, lime, foreign wood, and merchandiſe, are at preſent conveyed by land carriage. And cloth, barley, &c. are tranſported thither in the ſame way. 7. An extent of country, 35 miles long, and 6 broad, containing upwards of 20,000 inhabitants, would derive eſſential benefit from a canal. Uſeful and practicable, however, as the plan may appear, the ſituation of the Strath, with regard to the port towns already mentioned, and the expence to be incurred, will, it is to be feared, for ever prevent ſuch an undertaking from being carried into execution. For the ſum requiſite to the conſtruction of a canal cannot be eſtimated at leſs than L. 28,000 or L. 30,000; nor the land carriage of 22 pariſhes in its neighbourhood at more than L. 1100 *per annum*. A veſſel might convey by water 50 tons; that is, as much weight as 125 horſes could carry by land from Perth or Dundee. But, unleſs the water carriage were rated at 7 s. 6 d. per ton, competent intereſt could not be had for the original ſum expended on the canal; and, if the carriage by water were ſo highly rated, the greater part of the inhabitants would rather convey their commodities by land.

The

The moſt effectual method of removing this bar would be a voluntary contribution of the proprietors, who, in proceſs of time, would no doubt be indemnified by an increaſe of the value of their eſtates.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

FEB 1913